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Forum Looks At Global Persecution Of Gays

Creep Of The Week: Governor Snyder

> *"Anyone who's ever felt like an outsider or like they didn't belong really gravitated toward those movies."*
>
> *– Molly Ringwald on her '80s films, pg. 34*

INSIDE: SPRING HEALTH ISSUE

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TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE
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Emotions High As Trial Ends

Decision On Marriage Ban, Second Parent Adoption In Judge Friedman's Hands

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April DeBoer and Jane Rowse at press conference in front of federal courthouse in Detroit March 7.

BTL photo: Andrew Potter

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> **“It’s fun, expressive and energetic and leaves you feeling fabulous from the inside as well as the outside.”**
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> – Juliet Murrell on Voga, the new yoga/vogue craze, pg. 22

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HEALTH GUIDE

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WEST LAFAYETTE BLVD.

Some of the core group of people showed up every day to observe the trial.

THEODORE LEVIN
UNITED STATES COURTHO

Frank Colasonti, Jr., right, and his partner Jim Ryder. Colasonti attended every day of the trial. Below: The Patten-Terry family, one of many families that attended the trial hoping to hear their family would be recognized by the state. Parents Elizabeth Patten, second from right and Johnnie Terry, second from left. Sons Andrew,16, left, and Ryann, 14, on right. Patricia Ballard, center, is Patten's mother and the boys' grandmother.

KICK's executive director Curtis Lipscomb braved frigid temperatures to march with pro-equality supporters.

Above top: Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown told the court that she is ready and willing to issue a marriage license to DeBoer and Rowse and any other same-sex couple that applies. A named defendant because of her official capacity as county clerk, the state identified her as an "adverse" witness because of her vocal support for marriage equality.

Bottom: Plaintiff's attorney Kenneth Mogill outside the courthouse after delivering his closing argument, in which he said, "No other group in America has been required to establish parenting competency as a pre-requisite to marry."

BTL Photos Andrew Potter

View the Online Gallery
www.pridesource.com

More Photos, p. 6

Trial Ends, Now We Wait

Judge FriedmanTo Decide Marriage Case Within Next Two Weeks

BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT – The trial is now over. After nine days of emotional testimony, U. S. District Judge Bernard Friedman has all the evidence and thousands of exhibits and documents to consider in crafting his decisions in the federal case, DeBoer V. Snyder. Friedman told a packed courtroom Mar. 7 he will issue his decisions within the next two weeks.

"We did have our day in court and we're thankful for it," said a weary April DeBoer upon leaving the courthouse for the last time. "We are hopeful that we'll be on the right side of history, as well as Michigan being on the right side of history."

"It's been an intense nine days and I'm glad that we can maybe go back to a normal routine," said Jayne Rowse, DeBoer's life partner and co-plaintiff. "We miss the daily life that we've come to love, just that every day of being with our kids. And being away this much has definitely taken a toll on us, and a little bit on them."

Friedman will issue opinions on least three issues. He will rule on the constitutionality of Michigan's marriage ban, and if he finds the ban unconstitutional he will have to decide whether to issue an immediate stay or not. The stay would preclude couples from marrying in Michigan until the case is appealed to a higher court. His third ruling will determine whether second parent adoption for same-sex couples ought to be allowed in Michigan. Current state law prohibits couples from jointly adopting children unless the couple is legally married.

For the entire first week of the trial, the plaintiffs' attorneys presented impressive expert witnesses from the fields of sociology, law, child welfare, demography and history, all of whom provided evidence and research that shows children raised by same-sex couples do just as well as children raised by heterosexual couples. Specifically, Prof. Vivek Sankaran, an expert in child welfare and a clinical professor at the University of Michigan Law School, told the court that DeBoer and Rowse have done a "tremendous job" raising their special needs children.

Dr. Gary Gates, a demographer and distinguished scholar at the Williams Institute of the UCLA School of Law, testified that as of 2012 there are 287,000 adults identified as LGBT in Michigan, and there are more than 14,000 same-sex couples. Gates also testified that more than half of LGBT Americans already have children or want to have children, and same-sex couples are twice as likely to raise a foster child as opposite-sex couples.

Dr. Nancy Cott, Harvard professor of history and author of numerous books and articles on marriage said, "History shows that changes in marriage to bring it up to date (with changing social, economic and ethical standards) have only made the institution stronger." Cott is the author of Public Vows, a well researched review of the history of marriage as a public institution, and has served as an expert in the historic marriage equality cases before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013. She reminded the court that marriage between blacks and whites was once illegal and that many states also banned marriages between white citizens and those of Chinese descent.

The state's attorneys got their chance to present evidence defending the marriage ban, arguing it should remain in place, however they suffered major setbacks with their first two witnesses.

Sherif Girgis, their first witness, is a law student at Yale and a philosopher. Friedman barred him from testifying, saying that Girgis is bound to become an expert in his field someday, "But not quite yet."

The state's second witness, sociologist Dr. Mark Regnerus, authored a controversial 2009 study that found children of people who had a same-sex relationship did less well than children raised in a stable home with two heterosexual parents. His research was immediately rebuked by social scientists after it was published in Social Science Review. Within a month of publication the editor said it should never have been published. And the very day Regnerus took the stand his own university, the University of Texas, issued a statement disavowing the study, and his department chair, Dr. Christine Williams, issued a strongly worded statement distancing herself and the department from Regnerus' research. "Dr. Regnerus' opinions are his own. They do not reflect the views of the Sociology Department of The University of Texas at Austin. Nor do they reflect the views of the American Sociological Association, which takes the position that the conclusions he draws from his study of gay parenting are fundamentally flawed on conceptual and methodological grounds and that findings from Dr. Regnerus' work have been cited inappropriately in efforts to diminish the civil rights and legitimacy of LBGTQ partners and their families," Williams statement said.

Plaintiff's attorney's also read into the record a statement by one of Regnerus' consultants on his study, Dr. Paul Amato, a Prof. of Sociology at Penn State University, who discredited the study as well. "Many conservative observers have cited the Regnerus study as if it provided evidence that being raised by gay or lesbian parents is harmful to children. This claim is disingenuous, because the study found no such thing," he wrote.

Plantiff's attorney's were able to raise further doubts about Regnerus and his research by showing it was politically motivated and designed to produce the results needed by same sex marriage opponents. During cross-examination, Regnerus revealed that in 2009, the Witherspoon Institute, a conservative research organization, convened a gathering including Regnerus and Maggie Gallagher, the leader of the National Organization for Marriage, the nation's leading group opposing the freedom to marry for same-sex couples. The meeting focused on the need for a study and members of the group developed questions for a survey. The Witherspoon Institute subsequently funded Regnerus' study with the goal of publishing it before marriage cases reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

On the final day of the state's testimony, Dr.Douglas Allen, a Canadian economist took the stand to testify about outcomes for the children of married gay parents. Plaintiffs' attorney Ken Mogill was questioning him.

"Is it accurate that you believe the consequence of engaging in homosexual acts is a separation from God and eternal damnation?" Mogill asked Allen. "In other words, they're going to hell?"

"Without repentance, yes," Allen said.

The court testimony also revealed how closely all of the state's witnesses had worked together to construct the Regnerus study – looking for an outcome that would certainly try and call into question over 30 years of social science that had clearly reached academic consensus that the health and well being of children of same sex partners was essentially no different then that of heterosexual couples.

Closing arguments were on Mar. 7 and the courtroom was packed, mostly with LGBT people and their families waiting to hear the fate of their legal status. The plaintiffs attorneys went first and passionately reasoned there is no logic in discriminating against LGBT families. They also made the point that the state's witnesses do not have the respect of their professional peers, and that conservative activists were involved in generating research to simply bolster a political agenda. Many in the courtroom were crying as the attorneys described how important this case is to LGBT families in Michigan.

The state's closing arguments bounced between saying marriage equality is too new and the consequences of expanding marriage unknown, so the state should not risk including LGBT families. Another point they made is that the LGBT community is too small and all the studies supporting LGBT families too limited to warrant further state action at the present time. Those analyzing the state's conflicting arguments were left confused as to whether they meant LGBT families were to scary and influential, or too small and inconsequential to deserve equal rights.

Online Resources

Great Live Blog for Eastern District Court by Ann Arbor Attorney Jane A. Bassett

Jane is a family law specialist who maintained a day by day diary of key findings during the trial.

http://deboervsnyder.wordpress.com

U.S. District Court Eastern District of Michigan

Court documents in DeBoer v. Snyder

www.mied.uscourts.gov/cases/DeBoervSnyder

Michigan Marriage Challenge

Facebook Page maintained to educate and directly fundraise for court case for expenses incurred on behalf of DeBoer and Rowse.

www.mied.uscourts.gov/cases/DeBoervSnyder/

State Attorneys Object to Including:

Michigan Department of Civil RIghts Report on Negative Economic Impact to Allowing Discrimination Against LGBT in Michigan

https://www.michigan.gov/mdcr/0,4613,7-138--293875--,00.html

Same Sex and Different Sex Couples in the American Community Survey: 2005 -2011

By Gary J. Gates

http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/census-lgbt-demographics-studies/ss-and-ds-couples-in-acs-2005-2011

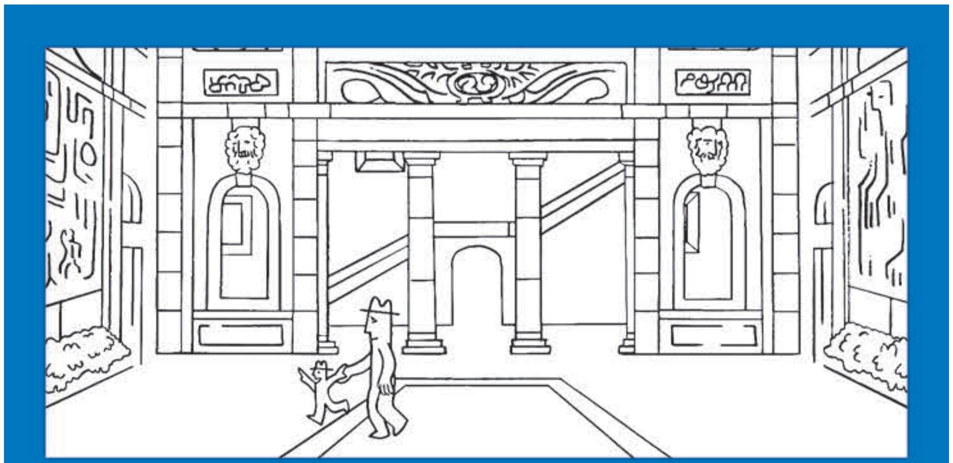
Related Materials Of Interest:

Census & LGBT Demographic Studies

http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/category/research/census-lgbt-demographics-studies

Discredited Regnerus Study

www.newrepublic.com/article/116741/regnerus-study-same-sex-marriage-michigan-must-defeat-bad-science



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Balance of Power: A Throne for an African Prince, through March 16.

Foto Europa: 1840 to Present, through April 27.

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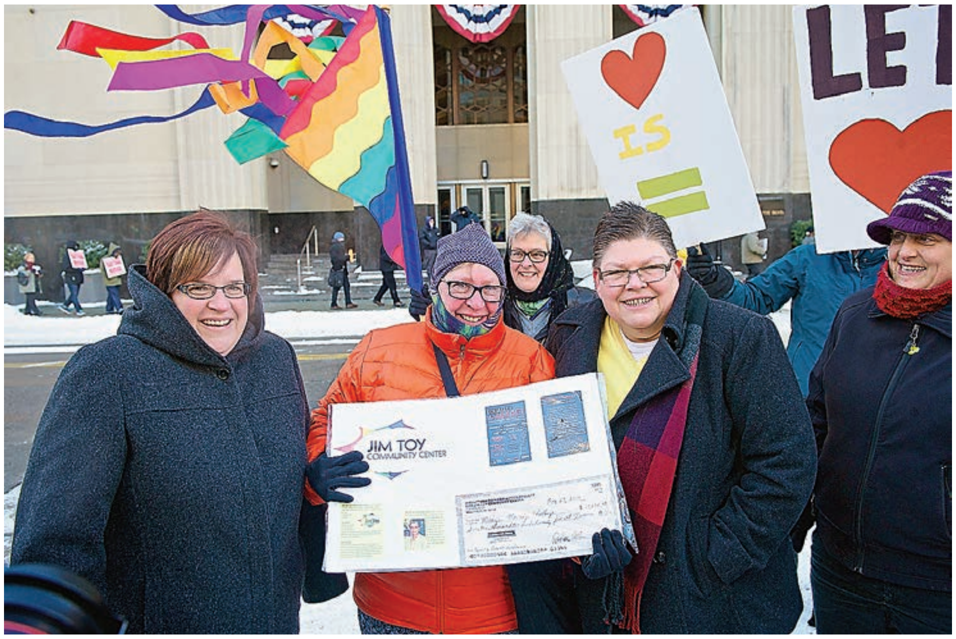
JIM TOY COMMUNITY CENTER
IS =

Both marriage opponents and supporters peacefully demonstrated together outside the federal courthouse in downtown Detroit throughout the trial. Temperatures barely reached abover ten degrees. Top photo; On Mar. 3, Sandi Smith of the Jim Toy Center in Ann Arbor presented a check for $17,500 toward legal fees to Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer. The funds were raised at the Equality Cabaret the prior week.

If you don't Like GAY Marriage then don't get gay married! HATE is a CHOICE
MARRIAGE IS ABOUT LOVE NOT GENDER
MARRI predates IT'S NO

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OGNIZE OUR MARRIAGE SAME AS OUR CHILDREN'S

DELAYED IS A RIGHT DENIED
231 WEST LAFAYE
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Religious Bias Bill Battles Continue In U.S.

BY LISA KEEN

The Mississippi House was expected to vote at deadline March 12 on a bill aimed at allowing a person to discriminate against others by asserting he or she has a religious motivation for doing so. The Mississippi Senate has already passed the bill and the governor has been unclear about whether he would sign it, if it reached his desk. But the bill is the latest sign that the clash between the freedom of religion and non-discrimination laws continues to expand across the country.

There was considerable media attention last month when Arizona's legislature passed a similar measure but its governor vetoed it. At least five other state legislatures still have similar measures pending. But at least 12 other state legislatures have already killed, withdrawn, or rejected similar measures.

Debate over the bills in various legislatures suggests they are largely motivated by a desire to allow an individual to express opposition to same-sex marriages by refusing to bake a wedding cake or provide wedding photography. But the bills are written such that they create a gaping hole in human rights laws, enabling people to circumvent laws banning discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, sex, and every other classification, including sexual orientation and gender identity. And they could enable a person to cite religious motivations in a wide range of activities, such as withholding medical care, refusing to pay back interest on a loan, or denying service in a hotel or restaurant.

Supporters of the religious bias bills have repeatedly characterized them as being nearly identical to the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act and various state bills that have already enacted.

But they're not the same, and many lawmakers in most states appear to have grasped the difference.

The federal law, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 said, "The government shall not substantially burden a person's exercise of religion even if the burden results from a rule of general applicability" unless "it is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest" and represents "the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest." The Act states "the term 'exercise of religion' means exercise of religion under the first article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States." In 1997, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, in Boerne v. Flores, that the act was "a considerable congressional intrusion into the states' traditional prerogatives and general authority to regulate the health and welfare of their citizens."

A law enacted last year by the Kentucky legislature following an override of the governor's veto is very similar to the federal law except that it adds that the government may not burden a person's religious beliefs

See Religious Bias, page 17

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STUDY

Research Finds Discrimination Against Transgender Health Care Patients

DETROIT - A high percentage of “transmen” – transgender individuals whose biological sex at birth was female but who now gender identify as male – have experienced discrimination in healthcare settings, according to new research from the Wayne State School of Social Work.

Ph.D. student Deirdre Shires and Associate Professor Kim Jaffee examined data from the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, a 2008-09 survey conducted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality, and found that 41 percent of 1,711 transmen reported being denied or refused care, verbally harassed, or physically assaulted in a doctor’s office or hospital. The findings, they say, suggest the need for greater focus on the unique health care needs of transgender individuals in public policy as well as health care education and practice.

> Discrimination was higher among transmen who had medically or legally transitioned to a male identity, those who belonged to racial or ethnic minorities, and those who had public insurance.

Shires, who presented the research findings at the Feb. 25 Center for Social Work Research brown bag luncheon, said the research unearthed some surprising associations between socioeconomic variables and reported discrimination. For instance, reported discrimination was higher among participants with higher levels of education, and gay, lesbian, or bisexual sexual orientation did not appear to be a contributing factor. In addition, discrimination was higher among transmen who had medically or legally transitioned to a male identity, those who belonged to racial or ethnic minorities, and those who had public insurance.

According to Shires, a limitation of the study is that the data does not indicate whether the discrimination reported came from clinicians, their staff, or both, or whether denials of service were related to routine health care needs or services related to gender transitioning, such as hormone treatment or sex-reassignment surgery. However, she said, qualitative portions of the study yielded comments from respondents describing a variety of negative experiences, such as one patient receiving a pelvic exam when presenting with a sore throat, and another experiencing chronic ovarian pain after being unable to find a doctor willing to examine a transman’s ovaries.

While available statistics on the rate of transgendered persons in the population vary widely – between one in 250 individuals and one in 2,500 – data showing their vulnerability are more conclusive. Studies show transgendered individuals experience violence, sexual assault, homicide, harassment and discrimination at very high rates, said Shires, indicating a need for greater understanding and sensitivity in virtually all social settings. With respect to health care, Shires suggested including gender identity discussions in practitioner preparation courses, promoting gender-inclusive non-discrimination policies within healthcare and social service organizations, advocating for the needs of transgendered patients in healthcare settings, and using gender-inclusive language when developing surveys and other research instruments.

The research by Shires and Jaffee will appear in Health and Social Work.

A Look At LGBT Discrimination And Persecution At Home And Abroad

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ

From left David C. Koelsch, director of the Immigration Law Clinic at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, Thomas “TJ” Rogers case manager of Freedom House Detroit and Jay Kaplan, LGBT project staff attorney of the ACLU of Michigan discuss the state of global LGBT civil rights at the Holocaust Museum March 5. BTL photo: Jan Stevenson

FARMINGTON HILLS – When a visitor to the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills enters the traveling exhibit Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945, they are encouraged to leave a message for others. One of these messages captured the sentiment for those gathered March 5 for a briefing on the state of LGBT civil rights worldwide, “I am glad I have the blessings to be safe, loved and free. I wish I hadn’t learned of this gift from the lives that were sacrificed.”

Over 60 people attended the forum Be in the Know: A Briefing on the Rights of the Worldwide LGBT Community and heard about conditions on the ground from Jay Kaplan, LGBT project staff attorney of the ACLU of Michigan, David C. Koelsch, director of the Immigration Law Clinic at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, and Thomas “TJ” Rogers, case manager and program assistant at Freedom House. They discussed the current state of civil rights for LGBT people and their families with an emphasis on Russia, Nigeria and Uganda. The speakers helped connect the dots between the state, national and international events that are impacting people right now.

In his introductions, the museum’s Executive Director Stephen Goldman said, “This program came about because of what has been in the news lately,” referencing the Michigan marriage trial, the antigay laws in Uganda and Nigeria and the worldwide attention on Russia when it passed anti-gay laws leading up to the Winter Olympics in Sochi. The programming is part of a larger project that opened in January and runs through May 4.

“Is discrimination a basis for seeking asylum under U.S. law?” And with an emphatic “No,” Koelsch clarified an important point.

EXHIBIT INFO

The programming is part of a larger project that opened at the museum in January, Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933 -1945. The exhibit is on display through May 4. The final event on May 4 will feature keynote speaker former U.S. Congressman Barney Frank who will appear at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Museum located at 28123 Orchard Lake Rd. For more information call 248-553-2400

“Discrimination happens all the time. I may not like you because you are wearing a blue shirt...that’s discrimination. Persecution is stepping it up a level... Forms of discrimination, if they are bad enough, can be rise to the level of persecution, but discrimination on its own is not a basis for asylum.”

This distinction was especially clear when looking at the current and relatively peaceful legal proceedings in the U.S. around marriage equality contrasted with the dangerous and life-threatening work in countries like Uganda or Nigeria - where there is no safe way to counter the government’s persecution of gay people.

Freedom House’s Rogers described a poignant example. He explained how, even after asylum is granted to an LGBT Ugandan, the difficulties of coming out from internalized homophobia – even in a safe environment like Freedom House – along with the genuine fear of endangering family and friends back in Uganda for simply knowing a gay person – are hauntingly familiar against the backdrop of the museum’s own testament to persecution by Nazi Germany.

Addressing how today’s “international scene ties into events of past” Koelsch pointed to recent comments by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry regarding both Russia and Uganda’s treatment of their LGBT citizens. Kerry referred to it being “akin to Nazi persecution.”

“These are pretty strong words coming from Secretary of State... equating bigotry and persecution of gays with one of the most evil experiences in human history,” said Koelsch.

In looking at the differences between Russia, Nigeria and Uganda, Koelsch described Russia as being perhaps the most “hopeful.” He described Russia having “societal prejudice” that could eventually be moved with education and exposure.

> Addressing how today’s “international scene ties into events of past”... regarding both Russia and Uganda’s treatment of their LGBT citizens are recent comments by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry who said it was “akin to Nazi persecution.”

He was more pessimistic about Nigeria and Uganda, where he described similar environments on the ground for both countries including tribalism, factionalism and long running civil wars. Koelsch said leaders in the government

See Persecution, page 20

Western Michigan University Begins LGBT Alumni Group

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Western Michigan college graduates now have a LGBT Alumni Association to join: the Pride Alumni Association of Western Michigan University (PAA).

Main goals of the organization are to reach out to WMU alumni who identify as LGBT or allies, promote and encourage LGBT-inclusive policies at WMU, support the efforts of WMU's existing Office of LGBT Student Services (both financially and through volunteering) and connect LGBTA alumni with their alma mater.

Jen Hsu, left, with founding members of WMU LGBT Alumni group.

The group formed in 2013 when Jen Hsu, coordinator for WMU's Office of LGBT Student Services, realized there was no mechanism to keep a connection between LGBT students and alumni. At WMU's first Lavender Graduation last year, Hsu and other students discussed the "missing link" and came up with the idea of starting an alumni group. Lavender Graduation was a special ceremony for graduating LGBT and allied students. This year, PAA will help support the graduation on April 24.

Together with recent WMU graduates, Matthew Vargo, Jacob Smallegan, and Erica Whitaker, the PAA began to become a reality. David Topping, a political consultant in Kalamazoo, became Membership Chair of the group.

The summer of 2013 was spent planning out the group's goals and events, leading to a Homecoming event in the fall. Alumni in town for Homecoming got a chance to attend a mixer thrown by PAA, where over thirty alumni attended. Many connections and conversations at the mixer resulted in an intimate, welcoming function. PAA set up a table at the University Tailgate the day of the game, resulting in hundreds of students and alumni learning about the association.

In regards to future plans within the university, Topping and Hsu note, "The association has yet to identify any specific areas of change, but looks forward to having these conversations with campus stakeholders." In the meantime, focus will be spent on events and campaigns to increase awareness. So far, members have started joining from as far away as Oklahoma, and with graduates as far back as 2001.

Future events will include working with area organizations, including KGLRC. According to Topping, "We're lucky in that our reach, like all alumni associations, can be global. We plan to work with as many organizations as possible to reach out to LGBT alumni, no matter where they are located. The KGLRC has been a fantastic partner for the Office of LBGT Student Services, and many of us have had wonderful experiences working with them."

For further info on LGBT organizations in West Michigan, check out BTL's Yellow Pages at www.pridesource.com/directory.html.

INFO

To learn more about the Pride Alumni Association at WMU, visit www.wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion/lbgt/PrideAlumni.html.

LISA LAMPANELLI THE LOVEABLE QUEEN OF MEAN

THIS SATURDAY – MARCH 15

Two Shows! 7PM & 11PM

Lisa Lampanelli is known as Comedy's Lovable Queen of Mean. This equal opportunity offender is a regular on Howard Stern's Sirius satellite radio shows, and she has appeared on "Late Show with David Letterman," "Chelsea Lately," "Jimmy Kimmel Live," "The Dr. Oz Show" and "Good Morning America." She was also a member of the cast of NBC's "Celebrity Apprentice," Season 5. *This show is for mature audiences.*

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What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored bowel
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozide, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John's wort.
- **For a list of brand names for these medicines,** please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection,** or the medicine adefovir (Hepsera®).

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

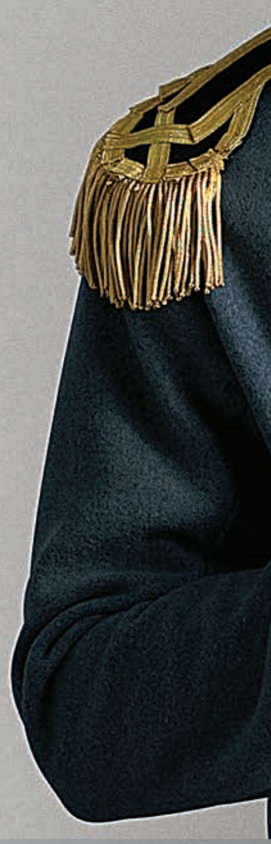
Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in peop

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

You are encouraged to



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with **important**
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more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious

healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea.

Please see Brief Summ
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Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.

get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

new symptoms after you sta
STRIBILD.

The most common side ef
STRIBILD include nausea ar
Tell your healthcare provider
any side effects that bother y
go away.

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

I started my personal revolution

Talk to your healthcare provider about starting treatment.

STRIBILD is a complete HIV-1 treatment in **1 pill,** once a day.

Ask if it's right for you.

STRIBILD™

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Patient Information

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Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
   - feel very weak or tired
   - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
   - have trouble breathing
   - have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
   - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
   - feel dizzy or lightheaded
   - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
2. **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
   - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
   - dark "tea-colored" urine
   - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
   - loss of appetite for several days or longer
   - nausea
   - stomach pain

   You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.
3. **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A "flare-up" is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
   - Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone
   - Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
   - If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozide (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John's wort

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Combivir®, Emtriva®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®)

STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See "What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?"**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
  - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  - Two of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in STRIBILD can pass into your breast milk.
  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
  - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
  - Antacid medicines that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
  - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
  - amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®)
  - atorvastatin (Lipitor®, Caduet®)
  - bepridil hydrochloric (Vascor®, Bepadin®)
  - bosentan (Tracleer®)
  - buspirone
  - carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegreto®)
  - clarithromycin (Biaxin®, Prevpac®)
  - clonazepam (Klonopin®)
  - clorazepate (Gen-xene®, Tranxene®)
  - colchicine (Colcrys®)
  - medicines that contain dexamethasone
  - diazepam (Valium®)
  - digoxin (Lanoxin®)
  - disopyramide (Norpace®)
  - estazolam
  - ethosuximide (Zarontin®)
  - flecainide (Tambocor®)
  - flurazepam
  - fluticasone (Flovent®, Flonase®, Flovent® Diskus, Flovent® HFA, Veramyst®)
  - itraconazole (Sporanox®)
  - ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
  - lidocaine (Xylocaine®)
  - mexiletine
  - oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
  - perphenazine
  - phenobarbital (Luminal®)
  - phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
  - propafenone (Rythmol®)
  - quinidine (Neudexta®)
  - rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
  - rifapentine (Priftin®)
  - risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal Consta®)
  - salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Advair HFA®)
  - sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
  - tadalafil (Adcirca®), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
  - telithromycin (Ketek®)
  - thioridazine
  - voriconazole (Vfend®)
  - warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
  - zolpidem (Ambien®, Edlular®, Intermezzo®, Zolpimist®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about STRIBILD. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about STRIBILD that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.STRIBILD.com.

Issued: August 2012

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BRIEFS

FERNDALE

Community Meeting Will Look At Employment Non Discrimination Act

On March 17 at Affirmations Community Center, from 6 - 7:30 p.m., a community meeting is planned to discuss ENDA – the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and what residents of Michigan can do to help its passage through the U.S. House of Representatives.

There is currently no clear federal law barring workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, but in the coming months Congress can pass ENDA. This bill would provide nationwide employment protections for LGBT people.

To help with the event email allisonv@workplaceopportunity.org. You can sign up for the event on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/events/831811700179113/

New LGBT-Affirming Congregation Comes To Southeast Michigan

A new LGBT-affirming church, Affirming Love Ministries, is coming to the Metro-Detroit and Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor areas. The diverse congregation is a non-denominational Christian ministry that believes in "the radical inclusivity of Jesus Christ."

The Detroit location is at 9550 Oakland Ave., Detroit. Services are at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday. Bible Study is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings.

The church is also expanding "the love of God through fellowship, praise and worship" into Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. The ministry will present their "Outpouring" service from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 15 at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti. If the community supports the Ypsilanti service, Affirming Love Ministries will hold their special service at EMU every first Saturday.

For further information, call 313-305-7596 or visit www.affirmingloveministries.webs.com.

- filed by Shelby Petkus

Find other LGBT inclusive religious services in BTL's Pridesource Yellow Pages at www.pridesource.com/directory.html.

HIV Criminalization Forum Planned

A community forum is planned March 29, 2 - 4 p.m. at Affirmations Community Center, 290 W. Nine Mile, looking at HIV criminalization in Michigan. Speakers will look at how HIV specific laws hurt public health and what you can do about it.

Extended briefs are available online at:
>> www.PrideSource.com

Clawson United Methodist Church Recovering After Congregation Flight

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Clawson United Methodist Reverend Peggy Garrigues. BTL photo Crystal Proxmire

CLAWSON - When Clawson United Methodist Reverend Peggy Garrigues issued a challenge to her congregation in August, she had no idea what the cost would be.

"This past August I told my own truth," she said. "I came out as a non-practicing lesbian, and challenged them to walk with me on a journey of acceptance, love and growth." Some members of the church were not up to the challenge.

"There were a number of leaders and those who just believe homosexuality is a sin. We lost a significant number of leaders. We lost a significant amount of pledges," Garrigues said. "In the midst of loss we believe in resurrection and new life."

The loss totaled between 25-30 once-dedicated members of the church, and about $50,000 worth of pledges.

The members did not only pack up and leave, they took a stand and continued to come to church for the final months of 2013, stating that if Garrigues were still pastor come Jan. 1 they would leave. They sat scornfully in the pews week after week, as Garrigues "struggled to find ways to minister to those who supported me and those who did not agree. I wanted to leave them with some kind of positive message, to give them some kind of love and hope."

On March 8, the Spectrum Singers, One Voice Chorus and members of the congregation came together to hold a fundraising concert to help make up for the $50,000 lost by the church members who left at the beginning of the year. Nearly 200 people came for the "Singing for Love and Justice" event.

Among the attendees was Reverend Melanie Carey, district superintendent for UMC. "We bring our love for Rev. Peggy and the power of love to overcome all things," she said to the crowd. "The hope is that we can continue the dialogue about difficult issues and God will move us forward."

The struggle for acceptance of LGBT people of faith is an ongoing one in the UMC. While some leave the church for more welcoming environments, others are determined to create change from within.

Garrigues is a divorced mother of two college-aged sons, both of whom sang passionate solos at the concert. She said that a "late in life realization" led her to recognize her sexual orientation, and that her ex-husband has found comfort in a group called Straight Spouses Network. "I am not now, nor have I ever been in a homosexual relationship," Garrigues told the audience. This distinction allows her to keep her post as pastor and to have the support of higher-ups like Carey.

Many within the congregation have stayed. Kevin Nave is music director for Clawson UMC. He was raised in a home without faith, and found God when he was in high school. "Clawson is a place of acceptance. In order to do that you have to see people as individuals and not as stereotypes," he said. "Just by being here you're offering your support. Just by being you, you are part of the story."

He encouraged people to invest in the work of UMC and to continue with them as they grow to a place of acceptance for all people. "Will you go and be Jesus's light in the world? Will you go where you are needed and be a friend?," he asked.

Board member Rocco Romano shared some of the church's history and positive work in the community. Clawson UMC is one of the original 12 churches that started SOS, a rotating shelter program that houses the homeless during the cold winter months. "This is our 28th year doing SOS," Romano said. "We invite people in and provide them food and shelter for a week."

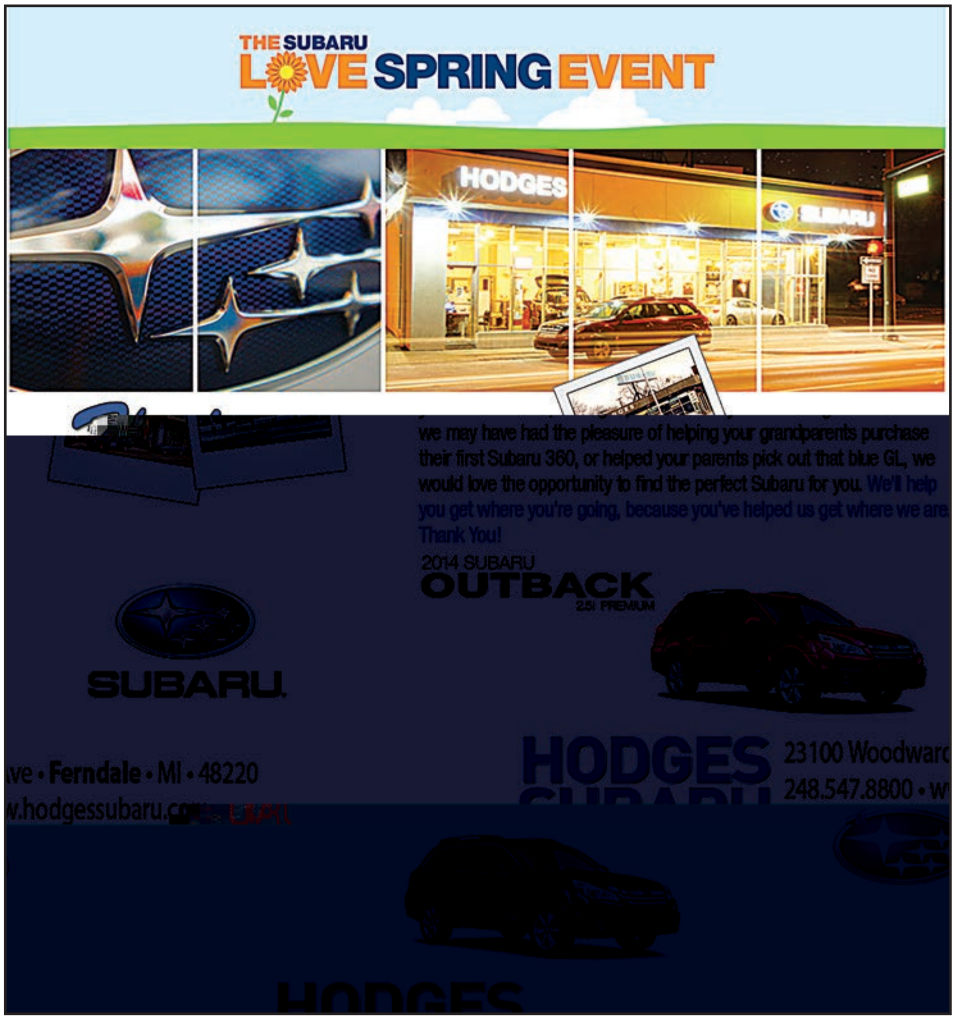
Other charitable works include making care packages for new mothers, sponsoring children to go to choir camp, hosting four different Alcoholics Anonymous groups, providing a space for the Clawson Rotary, and hosting an indoor farmers' market. They have recently begun offering their worship space for an Arabic-Christian congregation after their services on Sundays. And of particular pride to Romano is the church's Zumba Class, which he leads twice a week.

> *"I came out as a non-practicing lesbian, and challenged them to walk with me on a journey of acceptance, love and growth."*

"We have a rich history of being in the hands of God," he said. "We are moving forward in faith with the intent to grow and prosper." Thus far the church has been able to recover $11,000 of the $50,000 in pledges it has lost.

Garrigues has been touched by the generosity and support of those who stayed, and by the new members and outside supporters who have come into her life in the past few months. The musical fundraiser fit perfectly with the congregation, and with her own heart. "I am grateful for the healing power of music," Garrigues said. Her son, Isaac is a tenor studying voice performance at Oakland University. Her son Jeremiah is a baritone, studying music education at Michigan State.

For more information about Clawson UMC, including how to donate, visit their website at http://www.clawsonumc.org/.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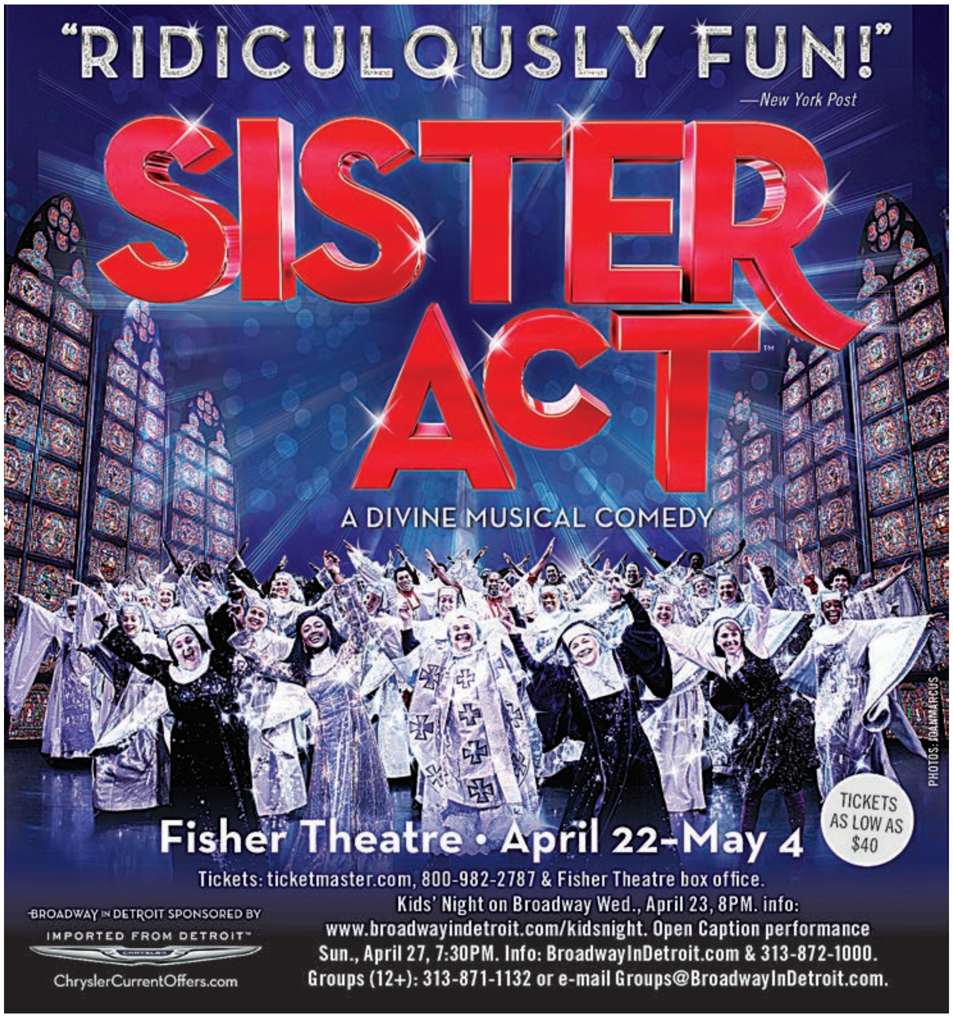
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Dennis Nulty, *tuba* / Kenneth Thompkins, *trombone*

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Case Dropped In Church Prosecution Of Scholar

Methodist Bishop Vows 'Cessation Of Trials'

BTL STAFF

WHITE PLAINS, NY – At a joint press conference Mar. 11, United Methodist Bishop Martin McLee and Rev. Dr. Thomas W. Ogletree announced that the church was dropping the case against Dr. Ogletree for officiating at his son's wedding. Furthermore, Bishop McLee said in his statement, "I call for and commit to cessation of trials," the first time a sitting United Methodist bishop has categorically declared he will not prosecute pastors for ministering to LGBTQ people.

"I am grateful that Bishop McLee has withdrawn this case and the church is no longer prosecuting me for an act of pastoral faithfulness and fatherly love," said Dr. Ogletree. "But I am even more grateful that he is vowing not to prosecute others who have been likewise faithful in ministry to LGBTQ people. May our bishop's commitment to cease such prosecutions be the beginning of the end of the United Methodist Church's misguided era of discriminating against LGBTQ people."

Ogletree, a past dean of both Yale Divinity School and Drew Theological Seminary, a scholarly expert in Christian ethics, and an author of a section of the UMC's Book of Discipline, began his service to the church in 1952, a time when Methodist rules barred women from serving as clergy and segregated African Americans into a separate central jurisdiction.

"It has been exciting to see support for marriage equality grow from the ground up in the United Methodist Church," said Ross Murray, director of news for GLAAD. "Bishop McLee is following the will of God and recognizing the pastoral care and support that LGBT people need. He knows that by putting such ministry on trial, he would only damage the ministry of his church. I applaud Bishop McLee for his bravery, as well as Dr. Ogletree and so many others who continue to minister to the LGBT community."

"This resolution completely vindicates Tom," said Dr. Dorothee Benz, the spokesperson for Ogletree and chair of Methodists in New Directions, which provided Ogletree's legal defense. "While it is good that Tom will not have to stand trial for saying 'yes' when his son asked 'Dad, will you do my wedding?' it is important to remember that trials are not the problem in the United Methodist Church, they are merely the symptom. The problem is the wholesale condemnation of gays and lesbians as 'incompatible with Christian teaching' and the systematic discrimination against us and those who would dare to minister to us.

"The declaration that he will no longer prosecute pastors like Tom who refuse to deny ministry to LGBTQ people is a bold act of leadership for our bishop, whose longstanding support herewith takes a new step that mirrors our own refusal to follow discriminatory laws," Benz added.

With the agreement announced today, Bishop McLee joins a small but growing number of U.S. bishops who are openly breaking with their colleagues' insistence on enforcing the UMC's anti-gay discriminatory rules. In October 2013 retired Bishop Talbert became the first bishop to preside at a same-sex wedding. After the Council of Bishops voted to direct two of its members to file a formal complaint against Bishop Talbert, four bishops took the unprecedented step of issuing statements publicizing their dissent in that vote. In December, after the Eastern Pennsylvania Board of Ordained Ministry moved to strip Frank Schaefer of his ministerial credentials, Bishop Minerva Carcano publicly offered him a job as a pastor in the California-Pacific Annual Conference.

> "While it is good that Tom will not have to stand trial for saying 'yes' when his son asked 'Dad, will you do my wedding?' it is important to remember that trials are not the problem in the United Methodist Church, they are merely the symptom. The problem is the wholesale condemnation of gays and lesbians as 'incompatible with Christian teaching'"
>
> \- Dr. Dorothee Benz Chair of Methodists in New Directions

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PFLAG Holland Hosts Author Angela Eden

Lesbian author Angela Eden will speak at Holland P-Flag, Friday, March 21 at 7 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 555 Michigan Ave. You don't want to miss her story.

Eden thought she had finally made it. A lesbian, she had come to terms with her sexual orientation and realized thanks to books, therapy and good friends that it was okay to be gay and Christian. Contrary to what she was taught growing up in a fundamentalist church, she now knew God loved her regardless of her sexual orientation. Her world brightened and broadened even more when she met a woman who not only loved her, but she also loved Angela's two young children and the kids loved her back.

But then Eden was faced with the threat of losing it all. One day her ex-husband served her with papers suing for full custody of her two children. Eden knew she was born to mother children and now her own kids might be taken from her because she was lesbian. To keep her children her lawyer encouraged her to lie and say she was not lesbian and deny the existence of her loving partner. Eden was hit with the battle of her life.

In her self-published memoir, "If You Were Me: The Memoir of a Mother Torn Between What's Right and What's Easy," Eden takes readers on a riveting ride through her childhood in conservative Indiana, all the way to that moment in the courtroom when she is essentially on trial for being lesbian.

Noted Christian author Phillip Gulley writes, "Angela Eden's memoir is a rare gem. Insightful, inspiring, and beautifully told. A story of faith, growing awareness and ultimate acceptance. Angela is a better person for her struggle, and you and I will be better people for knowing it."

Eden lives in Anderson, Indiana where she is employed as a child psychologist with a local school district. Her partner Angie Strickler grew up in Muskegon. Eden's daughter is also lesbian and attends Hanover College on a full-tuition scholarship where she is has a double major in English and theater with a minor in creative writing.

Eden will have her books on-hand for purchase. For more information call Holland P-FLAG at 616-399-2161.

► Religious Bias

Continued from p. 7

indirectly through such means as "withholding benefits, assessing penalties, or an exclusion from programs or access to facilities." That additional language would appear to be useful to a religiously run hospital that wanted to refuse same-sex partner visitation and still collect federal governmental support.

And there was considerable opposition to the Kentucky bill, opposition that expresses many of the same objections being heard to this year's bills. The Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association said the bill could enable public employees to refuse certain assignments and "open the door to spurious claims by inmates" regarding their food, medical treatment, and worship needs. The Kentucky League of Cities warned that it could jeopardize the enforcement of laws of general applicability regarding health, safety, and welfare. The Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs said religious beliefs have often been used by family members to justify abuse of women and children and that this new law would make that easier. The Kentucky human rights commission said the law could be used by members of one religion to deny housing to members of another religion; that a restaurant owner of one race could use it to deny service to a patron of another race. The Jefferson County Teachers Association said the bill would undermine public education because it could enable teachers to "refuse to teach important concepts." And on and on… At least 13 other states adopted similar bills last year.

2014 Bills Reach Further

This year's crop of "religious freedom" bills has gone quite a bit further. They have sought to make it possible for an individual or entity to claim their religious freedom was being infringed upon by the government *or by other individuals or businesses*. And, by making such a claim, the proposed religious freedom law would give them an exemption to a wide range of laws and a cause of action to sue. In Arizona and Georgia, major corporations have spoken out against the proposals, saying they would make employment issues much more difficult.

In an apparent effort to avoid some of the controversy Arizona and Georgia faced from the business community, the Mississippi bill added that, "Nothing in this act shall create any rights by an employee against an employer if the employer is not a governmental agency." And it limits "appropriate relief" for the person claiming religious burden to be sought only from "the state or a political subdivision of the state."

But the Mississippi bill also provides relief to a "person whose exercise of religion has been substantially burdened *or is likely to be substantially burdened…*"

The Mississippi House is expected to vote on the measure March 12. Meanwhile, fallout continues in states that have dropped the bills so far. The Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee held a marathon public hearing on why existing state law does or doesn't provide adequate protection for religious freedom. In Georgia, where a religious freedom bill died in committee, supporters of the measure have vowed to mount a national boycott against major corporations – like Coca-Cola, Home Depot, and UPS — for having expressed opposition to the measures.

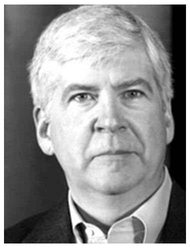
In addition to Mississippi, there are still bills pending in Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Oregon. And there are school-specific variations still afloat in at least seven legislatures, including Oklahoma where one passed the House unanimously.

In other words, the fight against religious bias bills has the potential to continue for some time to come.

Creep of the Week

Gov. Rick Snyder

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



The Michigan marriage trial, officially known as DeBoer v. Snyder for plaintiff April DeBoer and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, has wrapped up in the courtroom and we're all waiting for U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman to issue his ruling on whether or not Michigan's lesbian and gay couples will remain second-class citizens.

> I'm still super pissed about the so-called "experts" that the state paraded out in order to slander gay and lesbian families using taxpayer money.

And even though I have my fingers crossed that the ruling will be in our favor, I'm still super pissed about the so-called "experts" that the state paraded out in order to slander gay and lesbian families using taxpayer money.

This includes sociologist Mark Regnerus who claims that his study, funded by anti-gay money, finds that same-sex parents are bad for kids, even though decades of research has determined otherwise. Keep in mind that any one with any credibility thinks the Regnerus study is bullshit. Oh, and the University of Texas, his employer, issued a statement on the day of his testimony that basically said, "We don't want to be associated with this douche."

And then there was Loren Marks, a Louisiana State University professor who claimed that the American Psychological Association's unanimous support of same-sex parents was actually proof that same-sex parents were bad since unanimous support is indicative of brainwashing.

Joseph Price, an economist from Brigham Young University, actually said when asked why same-sex couples shouldn't be afforded the same benefits as opposite-sex couples, "Women have a domesticating effect on men."

Canadian economist Douglas Allen took to the stand to declare that gays are going to hell. And Michigan's Attorney General Bill Schuette's office claimed that Allen's religious beliefs don't have any bearing on his testimony that same-sex marriage is evil. He's just a serious expert witness being paid with tax money to cast demons into hell from the stand. Nothing to see here.

Keep in mind that Michigan is a state with one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, roads that have been in disrepair for years and have basically been reduced to rubble this winter, and the state's largest city is in bankruptcy with Detroit's pensioners facing draconian cuts.

But those things are apparently not as important as keeping two women from getting married and allowing their three special-needs children to have two legal parents. That we can find the money for, because we must think of the children!

At least, that's the crux of the argument the state put forth during the trial against allowing same-sex couples in Michigan to get married. Never mind that same-sex couples are the only couples that have to prove they can be good parents before they can be legally recognized spouses. Doesn't even matter if they ever plan to have kids. Because, my god, nothing is more important than making our children – our future! – safe.

So argues the state where a child "is abused or neglected every 16 minutes" according to the Children's Defense Fund.

So argues the state that has slashed education spending in order to give tax breaks to the rich.

So argues the state that has an infant mortality rate higher than the national average.

So argues the state that cut the Earned Income Tax Credit, which helps keep working families above the poverty line, by 70 percent in 2011.

So argues the state with nearly a quarter of its kids living in poverty.

You know what, Gov. Snyder? You don't have much to show for all this "love the children" bullshit that's all of a sudden so important to you. If the only thing you can "protect" kids from is loving same-sex parents then you seriously suck at this and deserve to lose your job to Democrat Mark Schauer on Nov. 4.

Our Long Journey To Justice

Editor's Viewpont

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ

I wept as I approached the plaintiffs' attorneys at the end of the trial in DeBoer v. Snyder. "I've waited 42 years to hear what you had to say in a court of law," I told him. "And I bring with me all the people who over the years have shared with me their stories about losing their children, or their jobs, or their homes. Unable to visit their sick partner in the hospital. Over the years all I could tell them was 'there was nothing they could do,' that the law doesn't protect their families or their committed relationships. So thank you for what you are doing."

During the trial I felt like a burden was lifting and finally a door was opening ahead that people would be able to walk through for the first time. I did feel anger at moments during the trial. For me it was clear that with all the battles – won or lost – we had to suffer so much to get to this point. I felt a bit of sadness too, that so many didn't live to see this moment. I felt gratitude I was lucky enough to be living at this time in our history.

When the state's witness Prof. Allen testified that LGBT people are going to hell unless we repented, I knew we had reached a tipping point. And not because Allen slipped down in his chair and lowered his voice while saying these disgusting words. We weren't at a rally or political debate, we were in a court of law capturing this nonsense as "expert testimony." Allen seemed to sense, as I did, it was their discrimination that was on trial.

Recently so many have said that the progress on LGBT rights feels breathtakingly fast. I do not see it that way. I marched in my first gay pride parade in New York City in 1972, and heard those terrible things shouted at me back then – that I was going to hell, that I was disgusting, that I was a threat to children. Some pummeled us with eggs and tomatoes. In the last decade, we watched as the marriage bans and constitutional amendments were passed and we knew it was unfair – unconstitutional. We also knew we did not have enough public support to turn them back. This trial has been a wakeup moment for so many allies and people who have been unaware of the discrimination against LGBT people – and I welcome it.

Recently so many have said that the progress on LGBT rights feels breathtakingly fast. I do not see it that way. I marched in my first gay pride parade in New York City in 1972, and heard those terrible things shouted at me back then - that I was going to hell, that I was disgusting, that I was a threat to children.

Many others came to the courtroom to witness the proceedings, like Frank Colosanti, Jr. who was there at 7 a.m. every day, committed to bearing witness. I also saw the cautious hope and heightened energy of the families who came into the court with their partners, with their children and parents, even grandparents. They wanted to know if their family would finally be fully protected in the eyes of the law. There were so many people, and they reminded me of so many others who came before and suffered so much. It took a lot of "outlaws" to bring us to this moment.

I was aware, while listening to the state's arguments in favor of maintaining discrimination get eviscerated on cross examination, that the struggle is far from over. I expect we will see a victory in this case. But our country and the world remains a dangerous place for LGBT people.

While this trial progressed, Russia, Uganda and Nigeria cracked down severely on their LGBT communities. Arizona tried to legalize discrimination by disguising it as a religious exemption, and our own Gov. Snyder proclaimed his support for the ban on healthcare coverage for the partners of Michigan's LGBT public employees. Even if we see a victory in this case, Michigan's civil rights laws will not protect LGBT people in employment, housing and public accommodation. A person can marry, but will they be able to put a picture of their spouse on their desk at work without risk of losing their job?

Even if we see a victory in this case, Michigan's civil rights laws will not protect LGBT people in employment, housing and public accommodation. A person can marry, but will they be able to put a picture of their spouse on their desk at work without risk of losing their job?

I watched as the plaintiffs' attorneys put together an ironclad case. The testimony revealed the core purpose of Dr. Mark Regnerus' work. It was to help slow down our civil rights movement and to create doubt as to who we as LGBT people might be. We learned mostly about who Regnerus feared, not who we are. And now it is in a court record for history to recount and judge for all time.

Every single one of the state's "expert" witnesses conspired together toward a predetermined outcome, all hoping to maintain state sanctioned discrimination - academic rigor be damned. Their work was mapped out on a timeline and their associations have now been noted in the court record. All the loosely affiliated players were pulled together for the world to see that their sole aim was to halt our progress. The state kept saying we needed to be careful, we had to move more slowly - proceed with caution. Their whole approach was to cast doubt on us. "We aren't sure" or "it's premature" and we don't yet know about this teeny-tiny speck of the population. We should be very afraid of LGBT people getting full civil rights until some far off research is completed (and as the state hopes it proves we are not worthy somehow of equal protection under the law).

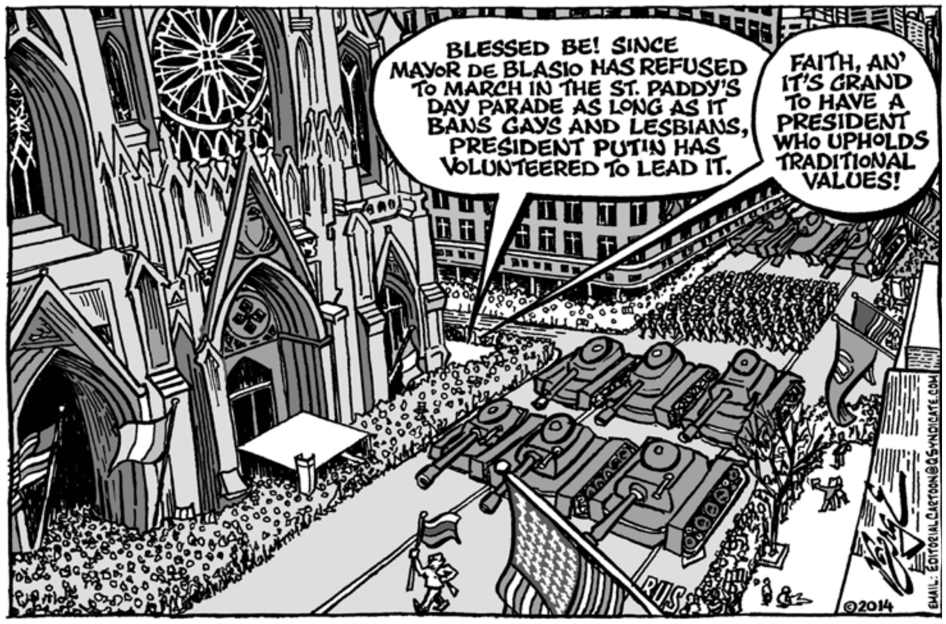
It was painful to watch them bend social science to try and do their will, even while their witnesses had agreed there is a consensus in the field that children of same-sex parents do just fine. They just don't like the consensus. They just could not let go of their long-held animus against us. This propaganda machine was fully documented in the court proceedings - and I hope Judge Friedman realizes this - that their motivation is simply to discriminate and continue to harm us.

Lisa Brown happens to be the Oakland County clerk, so she is the official who is not allowed to issue DeBoer and Rowse a marriage license. But Brown courageously became an adverse witness. She testified that convicted felons, substance abusers, even pedophiles can marry in Oakland County, so long as they are of legal age. But she is not allowed to issue a marriage license to any same-sex couple, and she thinks that is unconstitutional. Her role in the case made the state's arguments look utterly ridiculous.

The state's legal theory holds no basis in 21st century America. Equal protection under the law now casts a wider net that includes LGBT people - especially since the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to strike down key portions of the Defense of Marriage Act in the Windsor case.

Now we wait to see if Judge Friedman agrees.

Susan Horowitz is the co-publisher of BTL. She is a former co-chair of Heritage of Pride in NYC, producer of the New York City Pride Guide for 19 years, Grand Marshal of NYC Pride in 1982 and the former executive director of the New Festival, New York City's LGBT Film Festival from 1989 - 1994. She has served on the board of Affirmations Community Center, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and numerous other LGBT and AIDS service organizations since 1975.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Stop! Look! Listen!

Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Shortly before retiring from the digitally enhanced combat called teaching I came across a bound volume of back issues of Detroit Public Schools news about students, teachers, and education, circa mid-50s.

Flipping through the collection I was surprised to find a poem I had written at Harry Burns Hutchins Intermediate School, to and from which I took a 10-cent bus ride for three happy years. 1948 to 1951. I still judge Hutchins one of the best learning experiences of my life.

My poem was originally included in a student-illustrated hand-stapled, mimeographed booklet, "The Coach and Four." (I began writing poetry during my first summer at Baptist Camp. The "gift" came along with an equally inspiring and poetic crush on my counselor.)

Though I wrote "The Clock" when I was 13, I'll be the first to admit -- modestly -- that there's about it a touch of precocious, otherworldly, Emily Dickinsonian, Americana genius. Said youthful opus contains insights not normally accessible to persons, shall we say, less sensitive. (Or, "jocund" in the original sense of gay.)

Having provided such introductory palaver, here's the poem in its pristine simplicity. (I'll be delighted to read same in person for any festive occasion warranting the inclusion of a spiritually uplifting, LGBT-inspired, rhymed composition. Gratis.) And so...

"Our dusty old clock sits on the shelf. Ticking softly there by itself. Slowly counting the hours away. As night turns to another day. Winter. Summer. The whole year through: Tick tock, I hear it. Do you? We grow old and pass away. But the clock goes on from day to day."

Oh, well. I was only several months post-pubescent when I yielded to that inspired but premature calling of the muse.

Shared also in passing. When I went to Burton Elementary school part of our learning experience was poetry memorization. So; If asked – again gratis – I can recite "Casey at the Bat, Wordsworth's "Daffodils," and Joyce Kilmer's "Trees."

Actually, I learned my first poem in kindergarden. It has been a cautionary godsend and rhythmic beacon for most of my adult life: "Stop! Look! And listen! Before you cross the street. Use your eyes. Use your ears. And then use your feet."

Come to think of it as a kid I was Mr. Starlit Stairway – with an enthusiasm I find refreshing looking back on it. At Hutchins I also did a ventriloquism act, with a dummy named Hermann, purchased at Hall's long-vanished Magic Shop in downtown Detroit. I haven't a clue what my script was. I think it had something to do with the terrors of jaywalking; but apparently I got enthusiastic applause for my schizoid efforts.

That same year I put on a magic show at the Cass Avenue Methodist Church. As the proud owner of a multipurpose Gilbert's Magic Set – linking rings, deck of prepared cards, trick magic wands, vanishing handkerchiefs, fake mustache. I felt myself Harry Houdini incarnate. (Handcuffs came much later.)

My performance left a lot to be desired I'm sure. But I had a grand time, a free dinner, and the applause and made me a celeb of sorts, if only for a half-hour's indulgence.

Looking back on "me" I smile at the refreshing, unsullied innocence of the likable kid I think I was. Life had a wow! pow! quality about it. Get out on stage. Take charge! Pull rabbits out of hats! Link rings. Change silken hankies. Purple! Blue! Green! Red! Yellow! Orange! ... Rainbow Hocus Pocus.

Hey, kid! Stay young forever ... and possibly a day.

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► Persecution

Continued from p. 8

and church were using persecution of LGBT people as a way of uniting the country.

He said the recent anti-LGBT law in Uganda, signed by the president after 8 years of debate, "Emboldened vigilante groups to go after LGBT people ... The day after the President signed the law a special tabloid edition was printed in Kampala outing over 200 Ugandans with photos and in some cases addresses ..."

The panel pointed out that the impetus for the Ugandan law is rooted in the U.S., where anti-gay zealots like Scott Lively have exported their hatred toward gays to countries like Uganda and Nigeria, expounding on "the evils of homosexuality."

Remedies

"A sign of real progress I think, is that the entire world is looking at what is happening in Uganda, and Nigeria and Russia - and is creating a global movement," said Kaplan.

He stressed that a real danger to progress anywhere in the world is "complacency."

He urged everyone to remain vigilant, especially as momentum seems to be in favor of LGBT rights here in the U.S., stressing that while the groundswell around marriage equality has been exciting, fast and hopeful there remains a lot to do, especially here in a state like Michigan where anti-gay politicians are currently in control.

He said in Michigan, for the first time in close to 20 years, there is an excellent chance at amending Elliott-Larsen, the state's non-discrimination law, to include gender identity and sexual orientation protections.

Kaplan urged the audience to stay educated about bills trying to be passed into law around the country that would carve out a "religious exemption" for individuals who did not want to do business with gay people. While some recent attempts in Kansas and Arizona (to name a few), have been pushed back in the past month, attempts at such laws are still being tested around the country. They have also been attempted here in Michigan over the past decade.

All the speakers urged the audience to share what they had learned with others; to stay engaged and educate themselves further on the issues and to reach out to elected officials as well as ambassadors to let them know how they feel about these issues.

"I want to give a shout out to how important this year's election is here in Michigan," said Kaplan, pointing out that current state policy is "what we got based on how people voted or did not vote in previous elections."

On its website, Freedom House Detroit describes itself as "a temporary home for survivors of persecution from around the world seeking legal shelter in the United States and Canada." Rogers told the audience they are currently housing 40 residents, and six currently in the hone are LGBT of whom are LGBT. He emphasized how important it is to support the work on the ground and that places like Freedom House Detroit offer all their services free to individuals seeking help.

Both Kaplan and Rogers discussed the work of LGBT activists on the ground in Uganda, including Frank Mugisha who recently visited Detroit. Mugisha's the executive director of SMUG - Sexual Minorities Uganda - which is seeking to hold Scott Lively, a U.S. citizen and anti-gay preacher, accountable for the persecution of Ugandan LGBT people. SMUG has filed a lawsuit under an alien torte statue for Lively's role in the persecution of Uganda's LGBT citizens

"I cannot stress the importance of having this conversation tonight because for so long it has been pushed to the margins and I am glad to see we are bringing back to center," said Rogers.

Time Is Now: Health Care Enrollment Deadline Coming

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Enrollment opportunities and campaigns encouraging people to sign up for insurance coverage on the Healthcare Exchange are everywhere, but for LGBT individuals it can be a daunting task.

"Many LGBT individuals and their families have been left out when it comes to health insurance. It has been hard to find coverage that treats our families fairly, covers the care that we need, and doesn't break the bank. Access to affordable health insurance can help address the health disparities that exist because of sexual orientation or gender identity, provide critical preventative care, and ensure that all individuals and families can get the care they need without going bankrupt," states the new guide for LGBT people called Where to Start? What to Ask: A Guide for LGBT People Choosing a Healthcare Plan.

The guide is a collaborative effort of over a dozen organizations including Transgender Law Center, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Family Equality Council, Raising Women's Voices and the Brown Boi Project. It covers many important topics like cost and coverage, reproductive healthcare, mental health, HIV/AIDS, LGBT kids and youth, the definition of family, transgender healthcare, and reporting discrimination.

Open enrollment ends Mar. 31, and those who wait longer face penalties. Every insurance plan sold through the marketplace must cover essential health benefits and they are barred from discriminating based on previous health conditions, or on LGBT status.

Healthcare.gov has representatives available 24/7 to assist with filling out the paperwork and answering questions, and exemptions are available for those with financial hardships.

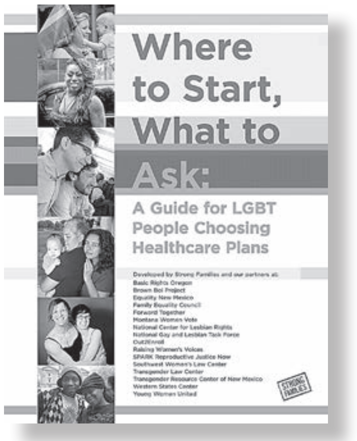
The guide also addresses the fact that health insurance providers can no longer discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions, including HIV/AIDS. One suggestion is to find an LGBT-friendly physician. A local list is available at www.PrideSource.com, or the Gay & Lesbian Medical association has country-wide list.

For transgender people seeking healthcare, there may still be more questions than answers. "Starting Jan. 1, health insurance companies can no longer use 'pre-existing conditions' as a reason to deny you a coverage plan. For transgender people, this means that having a diagnosis of 'gender identity disorder' in your health record can no longer be used as a reason to refuse to sell you a health insurance plan.

"With that barrier removed, there are still ongoing questions about what transition-related and gender-specific care you can expect your insurance plan to cover. The ACA's nondiscrimination section includes protection based on gender identity, so we expect that health plans offered through the state marketplaces will cover some transition-related care, as long as those services are covered for other people on that plan.

"Types of care likely to be covered include hormone replacement therapy, gender-specific care (such as mammograms, pap smears, and prostate exams), and organ removal (orchiectomy, hysterectomy/oophorectomy). Mastectomies may be covered, and genital surgeries may or may not be, depending on the plan."

The guide also includes a list of resources, and places where individuals can report discrimination.


Where to Start, What to Ask:
A Guide for LGBT People Choosing Healthcare Plans
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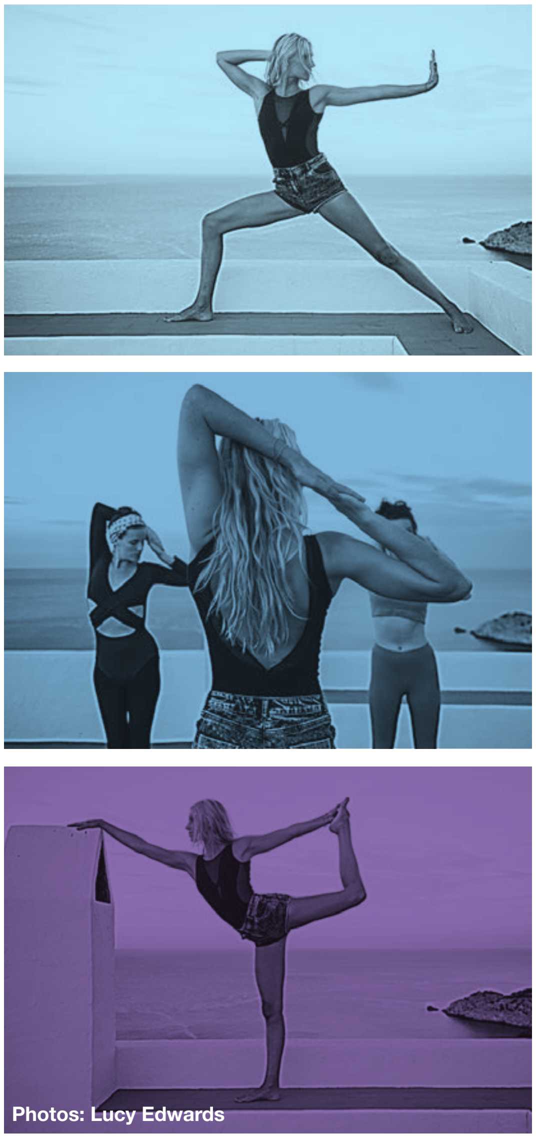

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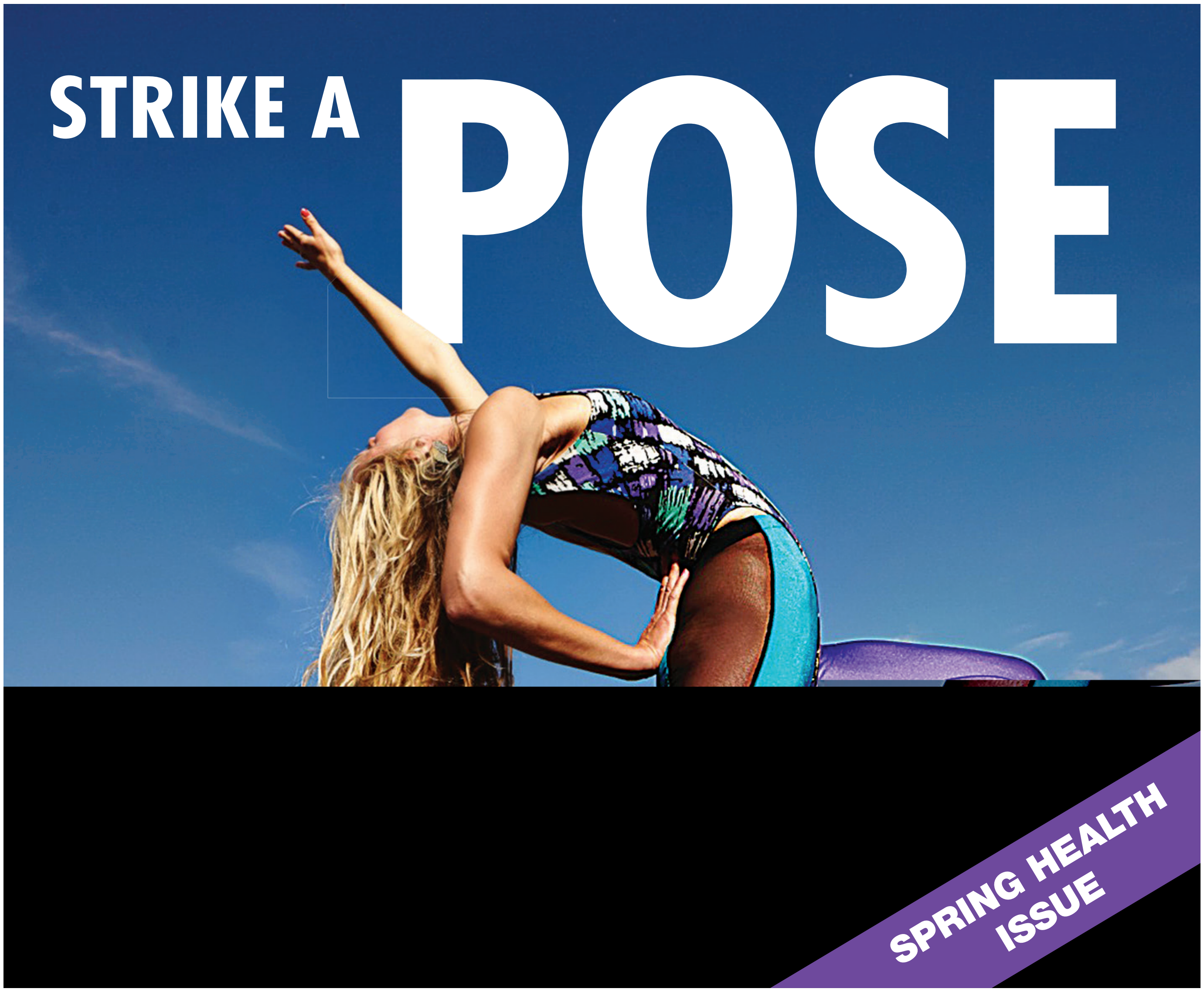

STRIKE A POSE

SPRING HEALTH ISSUE

Yoga Meets Voguing With New Exercise Fusion

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

LONDON – Yoga is a centuries-old discipline that promises to help people find permanent inner peace. Voguing is a decades old dance that promises to help people steal spotlight, slay like Pepper LaBeija. Together, they make Voga, the fiercest form of yoga yet.

"The purpose is to find your inner vogue," London-based Voga creator Juliet Murrell says. "Once you're in your Voga outfit, in the studio and feeling the beats, you'll feel fierce."

The thumping soundtrack is one of the most important parts of Voga. Of course Madonna's 1990 queer anthem "Vogue" is at the top of the list, but the soundtrack is a master class in some of the funkiest pop, disco and dance tracks. With songs like Janet Jackson's "What Have You Done for Me Lately," Diana Ross' "Love Hangover" and Wildcat's "Perpetrating," things are sure to get groovin'.

As with most people, Murrell first found out about the underground voguing battle scene from the fierce grittiness of queer cult classic "Paris is Burning." That film inspired her to explore said culture and ultimately develop the sickening mash-up known as Voga.

"After being inspired by Jenny Livingston´s documentary film, I went with my boyfriend to see a battle with Anna Ninja – lineage of Willi Ninja – which was one of the best, most mind-blowing experiences I´ve had," Murrell says. "I was hooked! I was inspired to combine my love of yoga, music and dance without losing the holistic and health giving benefits which is at the heart of my practice and experience of yoga."

While voguing may look simple, it's really an intricate series of movements and poses adopted from fashion models in the pages of Vogue, old Hollywood glam and the hottest catwalks of the world. That powerful high-fashion ethos translates into a remarkably fun yoga experience.

"In Voga, the emphasis is on the hands and the powerful feeling you can experience through the precise execution and linear alignment of angular hand and body movements, especially at high speed," she says. "It's fun, expressive and energetic and leaves you feeling fabulous from the inside as well as the outside. At the very least it equips you with a few moves for the dance floor."

Voga also incorporates some elements of waacking, a form of street dance born out of '70s disco – the lesser-known play cousin to voguing.

The moves are from catwalks, but the fashions are straight out of '80s club life. There's just something about an elegant lime-green spandex bodysuit that really helps you find your zen.

"Voga incorporates my love of all things '80s, including fashion," Murrell says. "I encourage total freedom of expression and an extravagant display of leopard prints, spandex and anything else that takes your fancy. I welcome ballroom eleganza, boas and Elizabeth Taylor fashionistas, but you got to be able to move your body."

Despite its playful appearance, Voga is actually a really good workout.

"Voga has all the health benefits of yoga and more. It gives you a challenging yet stress-free, full-body, breath-focused cardiovascular workout, which benefits the whole body right down to your hands and feet. It increases blood circulation, flexibility and alignment."

Traditional yoga and the Hatha version usually taught in the western world are great for flexibility and stress relief. Unfortunately, they can also be extremely boring and stuffy. Voga, on the other hand, is anything but stuffy. It helps keep your booty fit while teaching you to channel your inner fashionista, and it's just a matter of time before this new yoga craze moves overseas.

"Toning the tush is a guarantee – there's lots of lunges and warrior-style goddess poses," she says. "There´s also a focus on the direction of the face – known as drishti in yoga – and Madonna-style arm gestures around the face. It helps to give voguers a new awareness and emphasis to their faces – which ultimately leads to serving great face!"

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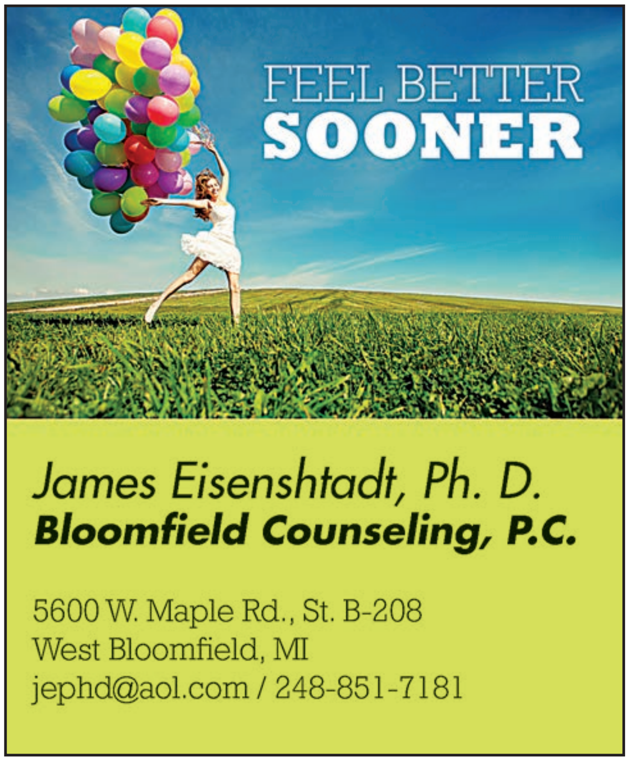
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Local Flag Football League Kicks Off Spring Season

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

HEALTH ISSUE

From the sidelines, the Michigan Panthers flag football players appear to be an identical group, indistinguishable in their fluorescent orange jerseys. But out on the turf, in the thick of game, the athletes are anchored to the sport by a shared competitive spirit and love for their teammates, as each of them, for varying reasons, call the league "home."

For Otiz Porter, 37, a psychology professor at Wayne County Community College, it's also "being a part of something larger than yourself, where there are vast types of gay men represented. Gay, straight, transsexual – whatever box you like to put yourself in, it's represented (in the Metro Detroit Flag Football League). And you are considered an athlete."

The Michigan Panthers, created in 2006, is the traveling team of the Metro Detroit Flag Football League – a local LGBT-friendly group started last year to create a similar welcoming environment for local football fans. As the group's spring season begins on March 29, the members reflect on the changing atmosphere for the LGBT community in sports, and encourage even the minimal sports fan to join their league and continue its growing movement.

"I was always an athlete, but I grew up believing athletes weren't gay," Porter says, explaining the shared attitude among several of his teammates before finding the league. "It's creating a sense of validity."

Porter, a middle linebacker and sometimes receiver – "no pun intended," he says, acknowledging the obvious joke – rediscovered his competitive edge and found his fiancé, Chad Fisher, while in the league.

Both the Michigan Panthers and the MDFFL fall under Team Michigan, an organization formed in 2006 to represent Michigan athletes at the 2006 Chicago Gay Games – one of the largest sporting events for LGBT athletes.

"We try to ascend to the level of the people that we idolize and there wasn't (any gay athlete) for me to look up to as an example growing up," Porter explains. "And that is very important in sports. I think that's where the stereotype, that gay men don't play sports, comes from."

Considering the recent coming out of defensive end Michael Sam as the first publicly gay football player in the NFL, Porter thinks the NFL could only benefit more from diversity.

"I think the NFL will learn that diversity among your players is only going to make your league stronger, because the more representation you have of minority factions of the world, the more those individuals will want to be involved," says Porter. "I think this is a great time in history for gay people. Now that people are publicly acknowledging their sexuality, the impact is going to be enormous."

For quarterback Leeron Kopelman, 50, MDFFL is a welcomed alternative

See Flag Football, page 30

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Surveys Say: LGBT Dollars And Health Going Up in Smoke

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

HEALTH ISSUE

Both a national study and a Michigan-based survey have come to the same conclusion – smoking is a big cost to the LGBT community. According to CenterLink's Network for Health Equity, LGBT people spend 65 times more money on cigarettes as the Funders for LGBTQ Issues report all foundations spend on LGBT funding. An estimated $7.9 million goes from the pockets of the gay community to the tobacco companies for products that are causing them harm.

The recently released The Health Consequences of Smoking–50 Years of Progress report by the Surgeon General shares the hard truth about cigarettes. It also contains data specifically collected on the gay community.

According to the report, "Significant disparities in tobacco use persist among certain racial/ethnic populations, and among groups defined by educational level, socioeconomic status, geographic region, sexual minorities (including individuals who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender, and individuals with same-sex relationships or attraction), and severe mental illness. The majority (88 percent) started smoking before 18 years of age, and in nearly all, first use of cigarettes occurs before 26 years of age."

"It's a brutal truth" says the Network's Director Dr. Scout."We're spending more on something that kills us than everyone else is spending to help us."

The health risks associated with smoking are also high. More than 16 million Americans suffer from a disease caused by smoking, according to the report. In the U.S., smoking causes 87 percent of lung cancer deaths, 32 percent of coronary heart disease deaths and 79 percent of all cases of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). One out of three cancer deaths is caused by smoking.

LGBT smoking disparities have been documented with a series of studies over several decades, but the 2012 National Adult Tobacco Survey marked the first time a national surveillance instrument reported LGBT smoking prevalence. In that survey, 32.8 percent of LGBT respondents smoked, versus 19.5 percent of others.

"LGBT people smoke at rates that are 68 percent higher than the general population," said Scout, "and the 50 years of Surgeon General's reports just show us how effectively lethal tobacco is.

"The LGBT communities have an excellent health infrastructure, but when you ask our leaders about our top health issues, smoking is rarely even in the list. It really is time for smoking to come out of the closet as the top issue health issue affecting LGBT people today," says Dr. Scout.

Because of trends like these, in spring 2013, Michigan Department of Community Health approached Affirmations to collect qualitative data on tobacco use in LGBT communities. Since Affirmations is located in southeast Michigan, Affirmations partnered with Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center (KGLRC) in order to expand this project to include the west side of the state. The centers conducted focus groups to look at why LGBT people smoke, and what more can be done to stop it.

They learned that tobacco use creates community. "The vast majority of focus group participants stated that one of their key motivations to start and continue using tobacco was the community they found among tobacco users. Participants explained that tobacco use created a common interest that eased social anxieties and made meeting people easier. Additionally, this sense of community also created a barrier to quitting because when friends would go outside or gather to smoke cigarettes participants explained that they did not want to be left alone or left out of the activity," the report said.

They also found that most people did not know that a Quit Line existed to provide resources to help them break the habit, and also that when they did see outreach campaigns about quitting smoking, they did not represent LGBT people positively.

Quit Lines are set up in every state to provide support for people who want to give up smoking. The phone number is 1-800-QUITNOW, and many call responders have been trained in LGBT sensitivity by CenterLink's Network for Health Equity.

The findings in Michigan are preliminary, but during summer 2014, Affirmations will work with a University of Michigan School of Public Health intern to further analyze the data collected from the focus groups described in this report. Affirmations has had smoking cessation services and campaigns in the past, but currently none are offered. "Hopefully this survey can be the basis for funding in the future," said Lydia Hanson, Health and Wellness Manager at the community center.

"LGBT people, people of color, the poor – tobacco preys on stigma and too often we pay with our lives," says Dr. Phoenix Matthews, a tobacco researcher at University of Illinois at Chicago and Network member. "I hope this number shocks people enough so we start building tobacco control into all of our communities' health programs."

For resources and support in quitting, visit http://smokefree.gov/talk-to-an-expert. For more on CenterLink's Network for Health Equality see www.lgbtcenters.org/news/553/CenterLink-Becomes-New-Organizational-Home-for-Network-for-LGBT-Health-Equity.aspx.

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Are Eating Disorders More Prevalent In The LGBT Community?

HEALTH ISSUE

BY SHELBY CLARK

The National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) recently compiled multiple findings on eating disorders in the LGBTQ community.

With 20 million women and 10 million men affected by eating disorders in the U.S., the illnesses are certainly not limited to the LGBT community. But according to various sources, 15 percent of gay and bisexual men reported having a full or sub-threshold eating disorder at some point in their life, versus 4.6 percent of heterosexual males responding the same.

Furthermore, gay males were seven times more likely to binge and 12 times more likely to purge than surveyed straight males. Gay and bisexual adolescents were significantly more likely to have fasted, vomited, or purged in another manner than heterosexual peers.

As gay men are thought to represent 5 percent of the total male population, statistics show roughly 42 percent of men with eating disorders identify as gay or bisexual. Amongst all men, the rate of either past or current experience with an eating disorder is close to one in three men, instead of the previously thought one in 10.

Some small studies also found that men are more likely to have been overweight before the onset of an eating disorder (as opposed to a healthy weight on onset for women). Men are also more likely to use excessive exercising as a form of purging than women, and 33 percent of adolescent males use unhealthy weight control behavior.

Research indicated that lesbian women seemed to experience less body dissatisfaction overall. However, females identifying as lesbian and bisexual were still at a higher risk of binge-eating than their heterosexual peers, with research showing double the rate of binge-eating than straight peers.

Elevated rates of purging by laxative abuse or vomiting were also found amongst lesbian and bisexual girls as compared to heterosexual adolescents.

Across all sexes, LGBTQ-identifying individuals were more likely to have an eating disorder or disordered eating habits than heterosexual peers in the same group. Gay, lesbian, and bisexual teens often had disordered eating habits as early as age 12.

NEDA posits certain issues may explain the seemingly disproportionate rate of eating disorders within the LGBTQ community, specifically among teenagers.

Internalization of negative messages and beliefs towards one's sexual orientation, gender expression, or gender identity may result in an eating disorder. A fear of coming out and a fear of rejection, a personal experience with

See Eating Disorders, page 29

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► Eating Disorders

Continued from p. 27

violence or some form of trauma due to their orientation, or experiences with bullying and discrimination may all be further factors in the LGBT rate of eating disorders.

NEDA even considers body image ideals within some "LGBT cultural contexts" to partially influence eating disorder development.

What can one do with this new information? Spread the data so more people are aware of the often misunderstood problem.

NEDA's 27th National Eating Disorders Awareness Week recently ran from Feb. 23 to March 1. The theme of this year's week – "I Had No Idea" – goes beyond just a week. Many misconceptions surround eating disorders, ranging from thinking the illnesses are "lifestyle choices" to thinking the conditions are rare amongst men.

"I Had No Idea" aims to disprove incorrect perceptions of eating disorders by circulating more information on what the behaviors look like, what kind of help is available, and what the statistics are on its prevalence amongst the heterosexual and LGBT communities.

Free resources, including educator and parent toolkits, volunteer speakers and more are available on NEDA's website, www.myneda.org.

Are you concerned that you or a loved one may be suffering from an eating disorder? Look for LGBT and LGBT-friendly mental health professionals in BTL's Yellow Pages at www.pridesource.com/directory.html.

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Love on the battlefield

"I like to tell people I was struck by Cupid's arrow ... because I was struck by a sharp pain in my knee out of nowhere and needed ice," says Otiz Porter, 37, about meeting his fiancé, Chad Fisher, 45.

The pair met in October 2010 while competing in the Gay Bowl Tournament in Phoenix. With Porter of the Houston Hurricanes facing off against Fisher of the Michigan Panthers, their love story seems like a gay take on "Romeo and Juliet."

"I was sitting down icing my knee with my back to (Chad), and then someone asked what happened," Porter explains. "I turned around and Chad really turned it on. He had these beautiful blue eyes. In my mind I was like, he's kind of hot."

Fisher tells the story of how they met slightly more direct, explaining he could barely see Porter's face, he just knew he was very tall. And although he was attracted to him, he had no issue showing his competitive side.

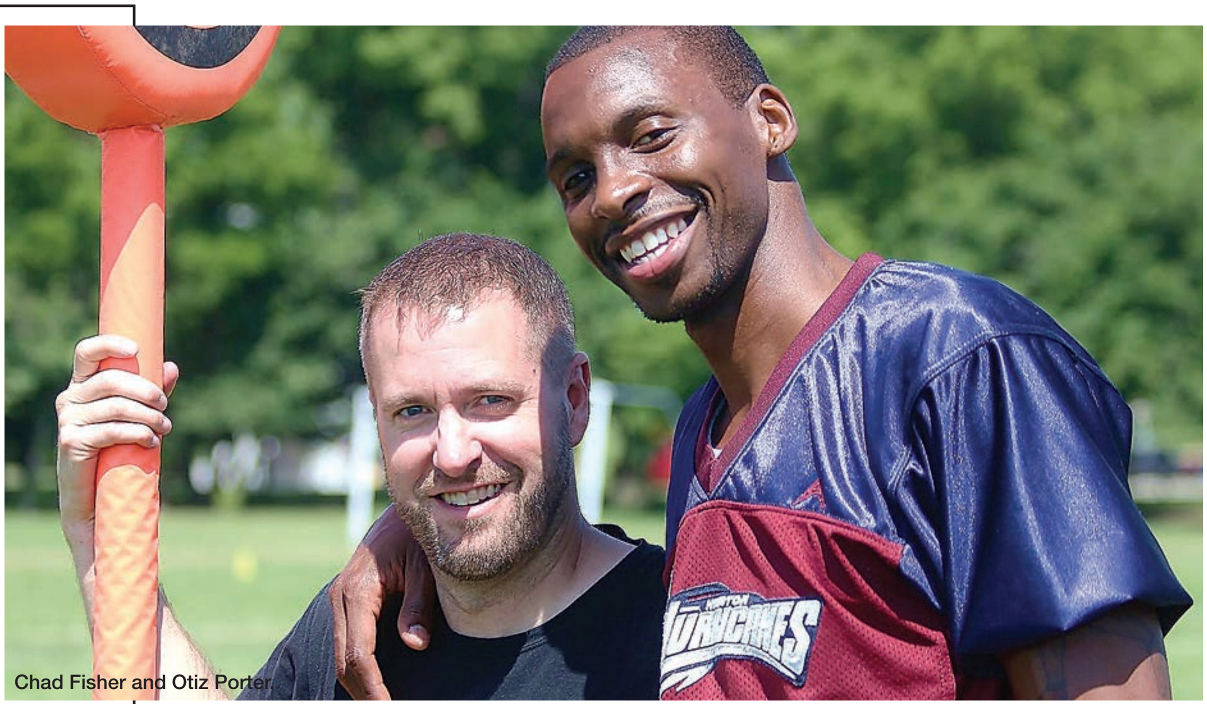
"He likes to make it sound like I was the one flirting, but it was pretty mutual," Fisher remembers, explaining it was all business when it came to competing on the field. "The game was really competitive. Then we ran out of time and (Houston Hurricanes) ended up winning."

He adds: "It was a close one. And that was my first Gay Bowl, so it was cool that that was the first one for both of us, and that is where we met our life partner. "

The couple maintained a long-distance relationship while Fisher lived in Michigan and Porter lived in Texas, eventually planning to move in together. On the anniversary of where they first met, in the same location at another Gay Bowl in Phoenix, they both proposed to each other at the same time.

"We both felt very strongly about proposing where we met," says Fisher.

When asked about a flag football-themed wedding, Fisher laughs, "We haven't thought that far into the future!"


Chad Fisher and Otiz Porter.

► Flag Football

Continued from p. 24

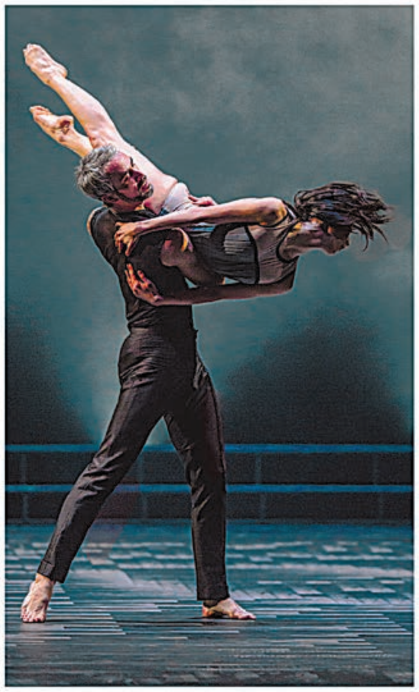
to the bar.

"We wanted to have a league locally," says Kopelman, who plays in the league and for the traveling team. "For me, I am not much of a bar person, so being able to play with a group of gay people who also love sports is refreshing."

As for just how "macho" the competition gets compared to the contact leagues, it's all about form, Kopelman says.

"I would say more of the finesse of football comes out in our league because it is more about passing than power," he explains. "The competition can be fierce on the field, but five minutes later everyone is hugging. People

See Flag Football, page 31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► Flag Football

Continued from p. 30

take it all in stride."

For 28-year-old linebacker Jay Lubow, a student in microbiology at the University of Michigan, the league allows him to meet a wide range of people he normally wouldn't.

"It's a really great way to meet people from different walks of life," says Lubow. "Ann Arbor can be like a bubble. You usually only meet middle-class white people, so it's good to meet other people from different classes and backgrounds doing different things with their lives."

Lubow adds: "(It's) different from the network (of) other gay events and social networks like the bar or theater – both of which I love, let's not discount some favorites. But gay football is definitely a different environment and draws in a different crowd. The league is a place for people to bring whatever aspect of their personality they want on the field and display it with a new group of friends."

The league is currently taking team or individual registrations for its spring season. Anyone who's interested can visit www.mdffl.org or contact the league by emailing info@mdffl.org. This season's games will be played on Saturday mornings at Hillcrest Park in Livonia. Registration is $50.

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Solidarity
by Richard Grune, lithograph, 1947
(image: Schwules Museum, Berlin)

SPECIAL EXHIBIT
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Nazi Persecution
of Homosexuals

The Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals exhibit details the Nazis' so-called moral crusade against homosexuality in an effort to racially and culturally purify Germany. This persecution ranged from dissolution of homosexual organizations to internment of thousands of individuals in concentration camps. Gay men, in particular, were subject to harassment, arrest, incarceration, and even castration. In Nazi eyes, gay men were weak and unfit to be soldiers, as well as unlikely to contribute to the racial struggle for Aryan dominance.

Artifacts from the exhibit depict the freedom experienced by homosexuals prior to the Nazi rise to power in 1933:

FAR LEFT: *A 1907 political cartoon depicting sex researcher* **Magnus Hirschfeld**, *'Hero of the Day,' drumming up support for the abolition of Paragraph 175 of the German penal code that criminalized homosexuality (image: US Holocaust Memorial Museum Photo Archives)*

LEFT: *Cover of the September 1931 issue of* **The Island**, *a magazine for homosexuals (image: US Holocaust Memorial Museum)*

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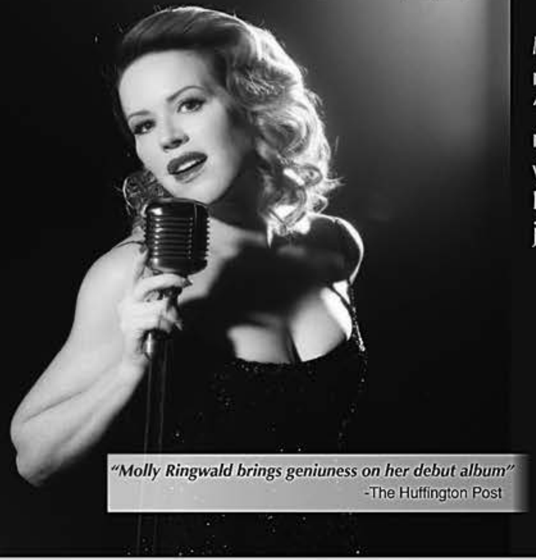

"Molly Ringwald brings geniusness on her debut album"
-The Huffington Post

Molly Ringwald became a teen idol with her roles in "Sixteen Candles," "Pretty in Pink" and "The Breakfast Club." Now, at age 44, she has released her debut album "Except Sometimes," which she will perform live with her jazz band. Don't miss this evening of American standards and jazz greats performed by America's sweetheart!

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The Scat Pack

Molly Ringwald On Jazz Foray, Being Sick Of '80s Music & Jon Cryer's 'Gay Vibe'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Yes, Molly Ringwald starred in all of your favorite '80s movies – "Pretty in Pink," "The Breakfast Club" and "Sixteen Candles" – but don't even go there. At least that's the cautionary heads up I get from her press people, that I should refrain from asking any such questions. Even Ringwald acknowledges she's kind of over it. Heck, she's not even a fan of '80s music anymore. That's how bad it's gotten.

But then the Brat Pack star starts gabbing about the original "Pretty in Pink" script and Duckie and Jon Cryer's "gay vibe," and she keeps going and going. And then she goes some more.

"This has nothing to do with my jazz show," Ringwald remarks, noting the tour that brings her to West Bloomfield on March 20, "but you caught me in a chatty mood."

Having gone from teen-movie star to jazz crooner, and writing books in between, you've had one of the most interesting career trajectories. Did you expect to end up here, with a jazz album, at this point in your career?

Well, I certainly don't feel like I've ended up anywhere. This is something that I am doing as a side project. I'm still very much an actress and will continue to act and write, so it's just something I do in addition to, but it's hard for people to wrap their heads around that.

In our society – and not to say you're doing this – people really want to identify, like, "OK, now you're in this box, now you're in that box," and try to make sense of it. Like you said, I've had a really interesting career trajectory and have done a lot of different things, and this is just one of the things that I am doing – but this is not what I'm going to exclusively do.

It's funny you refer to people putting you in these boxes, because if anyone can relate it's the gay community.

Of course. I think it's just what we do, and sometimes the boxes are a little bigger or they're a little nicer, but it's true – we all do it, and how I perceive people is something I try to watch out for. It's just human instinct. We want to identify what it is, and then we want to judge it.

For the album, "Except Sometimes," you selected lesser-known standards, but aside from "Don't You (Forget About Me)" from "The Breakfast Club," what's your relationship with these songs?

I grew up mostly listening to traditional jazz, which I still love, but it's really kind of like my dad's music, which is pretty old-timey. The music that I do is still the Great American Songbook, but I think my band is technically considered hard bop. It's more modern. But the songs – they're just songs that I grew up loving and listening to throughout the years. I know a tremendous amount of songs just by loving this music, and I always thought that if I ever put a jazz band together, these are the songs that I want to sing. And then I did.

You sing, you act. What's the relationship

between the two when you're reinterpreting classics?

I started out as a singer and I started out with traditional jazz, and then I moved to musical theater – and this is during the age of "Annie" the first time around – so I was a real belter and very focused on holding a note when I was younger. As I've gotten older I've really approached the music more as an actor and as a writer, sort of relishing the words and their meaning and what I'm saying. I mean, I can still hold a note if I want to, but it's not actually the thing I find most interesting in vocalists.

You brought up "Annie," so I have to ask if you've seen the trailer for the new adaptation that was just released.

It's funny you should ask! About 10 minutes ago I was watching that with my 4-year-old daughter, and it's so funny: I guess I'm so focused on other stuff, and I met with ("Annie" director) Will Gluck's company yesterday and I knew that he was doing "Annie," but I didn't realize that they were doing a modern adaptation of it. It totally threw me! I'm like, "Whaaaat?! Why is Cameron Diaz dressed like that? What's going on?!" It definitely threw me. It looks like it's gonna be good.

I do love Will.

Me too. I also like the idea that it was originally set in the Great Depression era, but we've really kind of gone through another depression.

Have you worked with Will?

Not yet. I'd like to. I just met with him yesterday, so hopefully we'll do something together.

Now you've got me thinking of "Easy A," which Will directed, and other recent teen movies like "Pitch Perfect." You were a teen star, and you had a big part in many of the most revered teen films ever made, so what're your thoughts on the more recent ones? Have you seen them?

Well, I had to see "Pitch Perfect" because they used a lot of "The Breakfast Club" and they had to get my permission to do that. It was funny, because I get asked to use stuff all the time and I'm trying to pull back a bit in terms of just the usage, so after I made that decision they asked me and I was like, "No, I've decided not to," and they just kept coming to me (saying), "Please, please!" Finally the producer was like, "Please just watch it." Then they sent me a videotape and I was like, "This is kind of sweet." And it was such a big part of the movie that I felt it would be really hard if they didn't (use it)!

My daughter loves it. She's actually seen "Pitch Perfect" but she hasn't seen "The Breakfast Club." I feel like I'm gonna have to show it to her pretty soon because it's gotten spoiled.

There's a "Pitch Perfect" sequel that's calling your name. You should get on that.

INFO

An Evening with Molly Ringwald

8 p.m. March 20

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Oh, I will! (Laughs)

So, it's obvious that you have a special relationship with the gay community. You have for a while. How much of a role has the gay community played in your career?

Well, it's definitely requited. It's a mutual love, you know. It really goes back to those movies and what you were talking about: feeling like you're in a box or feeling like an outsider. Anyone who's ever felt like an outsider or like they didn't belong really gravitated toward those movies. Also, I started doing musical theater at a really young age and was doing "Annie" in the first West Coast production in San Francisco and LA, and all the dressers were gay. That was the first time I found out what that meant. I feel like I've had some connection to the gay community for a really long time, and I've always felt really comfortable and accepted and loved in the gay community.

You've had Duckies in your life since you were a little girl, then.

Mm-hmm! The person who's the godfather of my elder daughter Matilda is a character that Duckie (from "Pretty in Pink") was based on. I'm sure you've heard me saying that I think Duckie's gay – and, you know, everybody kind of loving or hating that – but the real person is gay and he's married to a man and I'm the godmother to his daughter that he just had by open adoption. So, I mean, I had a reason for saying that, because the way that character was presented. A lot of gay boys that don't know they're gay yet do get crushes on their best friend. They sort of idealize their best friend like Duckie did with Andie and like my friend Matt did with me.

After you claimed that Duckie was gay to the press, Jon Cryer said he thought otherwise.

What did he say? Well, obviously, I think ... I think Jon has always been ... there's something, and I guess now you would call it "metrosexual." You know, he kind of had the gay vibe but is not gay.

Jon basically said that not all effeminate nerds are gay.

(Laughs) Yeah, that's true. That is true. But you know what, it's interesting because in the original script, the original idea was to have Duckie and Andie get together – and by the

See Molly Ringwald, page 38

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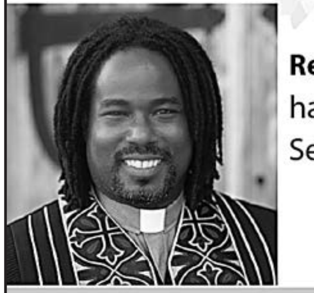

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, March 13

Free HIV Testing 2 p.m. Free, anonymous HIV testing is available at S3 Safe Sex Store every Thursday until 8 p.m. Testing is performed by HARC staff. Call to schedule an appointment, but walk-ins are more than welcome. S3 Safe Sex Store and HIVAIDS Resource Center, 1209 S. University, **Ann Arbor.** 734-741-1434. Info@bak-inc.com S3safesexstore.com

Gender Hormone Counseling Sessions 6 p.m. Darnell Jones, RPH and GNA, will conduct one on one counseling sessions for the transgender community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! Club 7 p.m. Toastmasters will show you how to listen more effectively, think on your feet and speak confidently Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Friday, March 14

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945 The story of what happened to homosexuals in Nazi Germany is the subject of the exhibition. Holocaust Memorial Center, 48123 Orchard Lake Road, **Farmington Hills.** 248-553-2400 x24. Holocaustcenter.org

Gay Business Networking 8 a.m. To help members increase their business through a structured, positive, and professional word of mouth. Every second Friday. GOAL, 100 Phoenix Dr., **Ann Arbor.** Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: Mosquita y Mari - Neighbors but by no means friends, high schoolers Yolanda and Mari discover a bond and an attraction when they're made study partners. One a star student, the other more focused on work -- both are rocked to the core by their growing connection. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Free, Confidential HIV Testing 7:30 p.m. Provided by licensed professionals from C. A. R. E. S. If this service is not used at the Pride Center, it cannot be continued so please come out and be tested and support this program. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren, **Battle Creek.**

Talent Show - A Provocative Night of Lesbian Diversions 10 p.m. GIFT, 1641 Middlebelt Road, **Inkster.** Stilettosnightclub.com

Saturday, March 15

Think Spring Craft Show 7 a.m. Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, **Royal Oak.** 248-246-3276. Ci. royal-oak. mi. us

Storytime with HSHV 11 a.m. This program pairs children ages 2-5 with animal interactions, as well as stories, activities and crafts. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 2513 Jackson Ave., **Ann Arbor.** 734-662-0600. Nicolasbooks. com

Adoptable Pets Meet & Greet 12 p.m. Stop by Petco to meet pets in need of loving homes. Tail Wagger's 1990, 29460 Seven Mile Road, **Livonia.** 248-426-7123. Tailwaggers1990.org

Gay Straight Alliance in Berrien County 2 p.m. LGBTQ youth, friends and allies, ages 14-18. OutCenter, 124 Water St., **Benton Harbor.** 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

Meet, Greet and Maybe a Bite to Eat 2 p.m. The agenda? Introductions, the basics, and seeing where we want to go with this group. Nothing heavy or demanding. Women of Color Same Gender Loving 40 & Up, 511 W. Canfield St., **Detroit.** Meetup.com/Women-of-Color-Same-Gender-Loving-40-UP

Detroit-Windsor Dance Academy 30th Anniversary Celebration 6 p.m. Crystal Ball to benefit student scholarships. Tickets on sale now at Detroit-Windsor Dance Academy. Tickets: $130-150. Detroit-Windsor Dance Academy, 100 Marquette Dr., **Detroit.** 313-872-7200. detwindance@aol.com

Delta Lambda Phi St. Patty's Day Party 9 p.m. MSU's only gay fraternity celebrates with DJ John Cruz. 18+. Spiral-DanceBar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing.** 517-894-1315. Spiraldancebar.com

Sunday, March 16

Pet Loss Support Group 1 p.m. Colleen O'Brien, founder of Blue Dog Counseling, is an expert at developing creative therapeutic interventions to support individuals, couples, families, and other groups with grief. Does not require an RSVP. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, **Ann Arbor.** 734-662-5585. Hshv. convio.net

Monthly Support and Program Meeting 2 p.m. PFLAG, 306 N. Division, **Ann Arbor.** 734-741-0659. Pflagaa.org

Bisexual Peer Group 4 p.m. Our group meets monthly on the third Friday & discussion relates to bisexual identity. Building is handicap accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor.** 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

Salon Sunday 7 p.m. Free cabaret concerts. Five 15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak.** 248-515-2551. Five15.net

Showbiz Sunday 10 p.m. Ace Deville, Delicious, Maria Mirelez, DJ Lipgloss, and more. Additional showtimes at 11 p.m. and 12 a.m. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing.** 517-894-1315. Spiraldancebar.com

Tuesday, March 18

Transgender Day of Remembrance Meeting Gender Network Alliance (GNA), 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Wednesday, March 19

Shop at Whole Foods to Support Palmer Park March 19. We are told that we can expect a donation of approximately $7,000 up to $20,000, depending on the sales for that day. Help us receive a record donation by coming out and shopping local at the Whole Foods that opened in Detroit this past summer. People for Palmer Park and Whole Foods Market, 115 Mack, **Detroit.** 313-757-2751. info@peopleforpalmerpark.org Facebook.com/events/720539394633916/

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics pertaining to aging and outside speakers. Potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties. Meets ever Wednesday on the upper level of the Affirmations building. Senior Koffee Klatch, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Mid-Week Meditation 6 p.m. Suggested Donation: $3. Michigan Pagans, 195 W. Nine Mile Road, Suite 1B, **Ferndale.** Meetup.com/michiganpagans

Connecting Hearts - Connecting Lives 6:30 p.m. A panel discussion exploring foster parenting for singles and couples. Affirmations & Vista Maria, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Thursday, March 20

Twisted Games Party games and fully nude strippers. Hosted by Ace Deville. 18+. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing.** 517-894-1315. Spiraldancebar.com

Detroit Elders 5 p.m. Discuss and address issues specific to the LGBT community as we "age in the D." Detroit Elders, 4750 Woodward, **Detroit.** 313-833-1300. belcrest5440@yahoo.com

Relationship Skills Class 6 p.m. A series for LGBTQ people and their friends and loved ones. Topics include: exploring personal and cultural relationships, values, arguments and making agreements, accountability and building community connections. Tickets: $35 per person. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale.** 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Whole Lives, Healthy Lives Adult Support Group 7 p.m. This one-of-a-kind program in Berrien County helps attendees support each other in healthy ways through active listening and caring feedback. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor.** 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

Pagan Chat Nights 7:30 p.m. Come socialize with FOCAS members and other area pagans! Michigan Pagans, 21700 West Road, **Woodhaven.** Meetup.com/michiganpagans

Polyamory Network 7:30 p.m. Open and inclusive community of people living polyamorously, people interested in polyamory and people of, friendly to and curious about polyamory. Welcomes diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity. Meets the third Thursday of every month. Polyamory Network, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor.** 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

An Evening of Molly Ringwald 8 p.m. Tickets: $52-57. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield.** 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

Drag Queen Bingo Un-Leashed 8 p.m. "No Holds Barred" Thursday edition!18+. Tickets: $20. Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak.** 248-515-2551. Five15.net

MUSIC & MORE

Classical

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Chamber Recital Series: String Soiree" Tickets: $10. Jewish Community Center of Ann Arbor, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr., Ann Arbor. 1 p.m. March 14. A2so.com

University Musical Society (UMS) "Israel Philharmonic" Tickets: $10-100. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 15. 734-761-1800. Ums.org

University Musical Society (UMS) "Elias String Quartet" Tickets: $20-42. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. March 18. 734-763-3333. Ums.org

Comedy

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Comedy Jamm" It's cut-loose comedy as we present the comedy of 12 of the current rising stars in the Detroit Metro area and beyond. Tickets: $5. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 8 - March 26. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

Tibbits "Coldwater Comedy Fest" Tickets: $20. Tibbits Opera House, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. 7:30 p.m. March 14. 517-278-6029. Tibbits.org

Concerts

Kerrytown Concert House "The Matt Wilson Quartet" Tickets: $5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. March 16. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Dmitry Baevsky Quartet" With Randy Napolean. Tickets: $10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 13. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lansing Community College Performing Arts "Jonathon Gewirtz". Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 3 p.m. March 16. Lcc.edu/showinfo

Michigan Theater "Eric Burdon & The Animals" Tickets: $39. 50-59. 50. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. March 13. 734-668-8397. Michtheater.org

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Sing Off Live Tour". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. March 19. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre. com

The Ark "Jesse Dee" Tickets: $15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 19. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Timothy Monger" Tickets: $15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 14. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Jeffrey Foucault" Tickets: $15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 18. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Heywood Banks" Tickets: $25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 15. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Kim Richey" Tickets: $20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 13. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Carrie Newcomer" Tickets: $20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. March 16. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts "Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi Romania Rumenye!" Detroit native and klezmer performer Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi will perform. Tickets: $10-13. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7 p.m. March 16. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

See Happenings, page 38

Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Kylie Minogue, Kid Cudi

Kiss me Once

Kylie Minogue, 'Kiss Me Once'

You gotta feel bad for every non-gay American not currently enraptured by Kylie Minogue. Sure, they know the Aussie diva for "The Loco-Motion" and, if they're at all conscious, her chart-ruling, early-'00s "Can't Get You Out of My Head," but post-"Fever," Minogue's been our best-kept secret. Sorry, straight world, but you're missing out. Minogue's been on a hot streak, constantly emerging without shedding her signature sound and without conforming to the zeitgeist. Madonna she ain't. And though the performer's 12th and best album is, at first glance, her most trend-grabby, mainstream-worthy work in a long time – songwriter-du-jour Sia executive produced "Kiss Me Once," and other collaborators include Pharrell Williams, Greg Kurstin (Pink, Kelly Clarkson) and Enrique Iglesias – it never dramatically strays from the majestic cosmic-pop that delineates her from her contemporaries. In fact, despite hit-making hot shots, Kylie hasn't sounded this Kylie, or this terrific, in a while. There's the dreamy – "Into the Blue" and the futuristic ballad "If Only," both stunning – and then, of course, the ultra flirty (see "Les Sex," a nod to campy Kylie, and the Sia-written "Sexercize," full of amusing workout innuendo). Williams does his electro-R&B thing on "I Was Gonna Cancel," and, shockingly, the Auto-Tune-heavy ballad with Iglesias, "Beautiful," is like Wall-E and Eve singing to each other. It fits, and it's beautiful and it's ours. Well, until the rest of the world realizes what we already knew. *Grade: A-*

Kid Cudi, 'Satellite Flight: The Journey to Mother Moon'

You know that album Beyoncé snuck out last year? Kid Cudi took note and, for his fourth LP, dropped it without anyone knowing ... until there it was. Stepping off the shoulders of his big-brother rapper, Kanye West, Cudi's prowess continues to evolve with an audacious thirst for the unconventional. Kid takes another cosmic leap on "Satellite Flight," living up to his career creed of being in control of his sonic identity. And every spacey turn on the EP-turned-LP – a prelude to his third "Man on the Moon" release – demonstrates that as he stretches the hip-hop matrix into something otherworldly. At the very least, it's intriguing. A wordless instrumental conjuring '80s horror/sci-fi cinema is the gateway to the ethereal rocker "Going to the Ceremony" and "Too Bad I Have to Destroy You Now," where a defiant Cudi raps about being "rejuvenated, recreated and rebooted" over some twinkling atmospherics. Both impress on an otherwise unimpressive effort. Cudi is certainly an eager boundary breaker, reveling in the progressiveness of the hip-hop genre, but it doesn't just take ambition to thrive. It takes good music and, too often, "Satellite Flight" never takes off like you want it to. *Grade: C+*

Also Out

Pharrell Williams, 'G I R L'

You can look at Pharrell Williams and see sexy. You can also hear it. It's the sweat running down the back of every beat he lays down on his long-anticipated "G I R L," a flashy affair – so many late-'70s inspired grooves – with an overwhelming amount of pop-R&B pep. Who hasn't just about exploded in glee every time they hear "Happy"? That feeling fills out this frivolous LP, where disco-era romps – 10 of them – are cut from the same cloth as Daft Punk, Justin Timberlake and the Bee Gees. It's ear candy without the chewy center.

The Notwist, 'Close to the Glass'

For all the synthetic glitchiness of the German indie quartet's eighth album, there's nothing artificial-feeling about its emotional lining. And actually, those disorienting tech sounds – the beeps, the snaps and, especially on "Lineri," the static – actually drive the paranoia on "Close to the Glass," yet another detour from the band's '80s grunge-punk. When "Into Another Tune" blurs folk and electronica with the loop of some beautiful strings, you know something remarkable is happening here.

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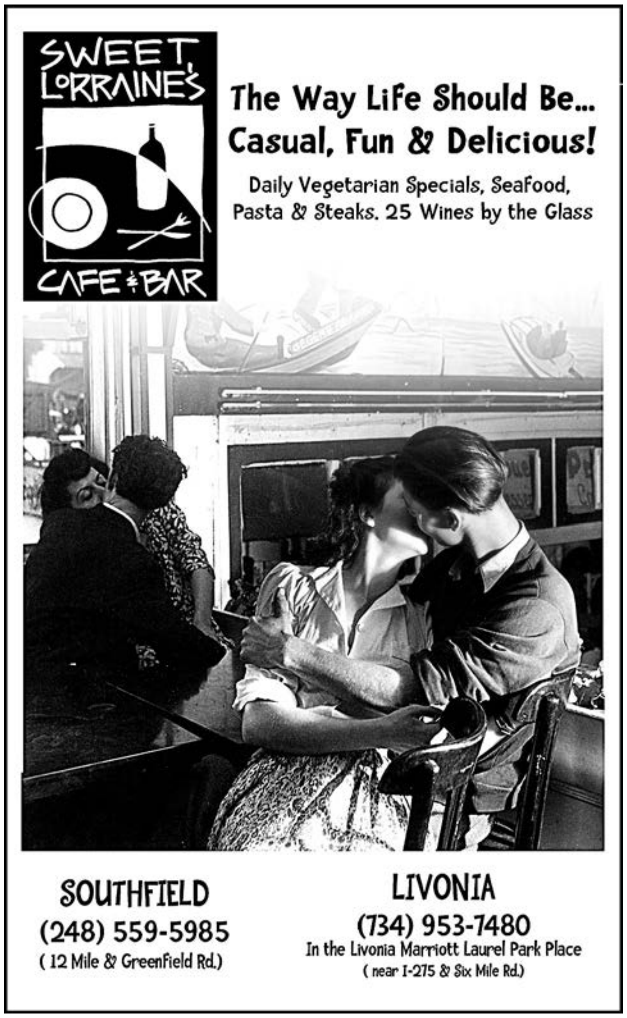
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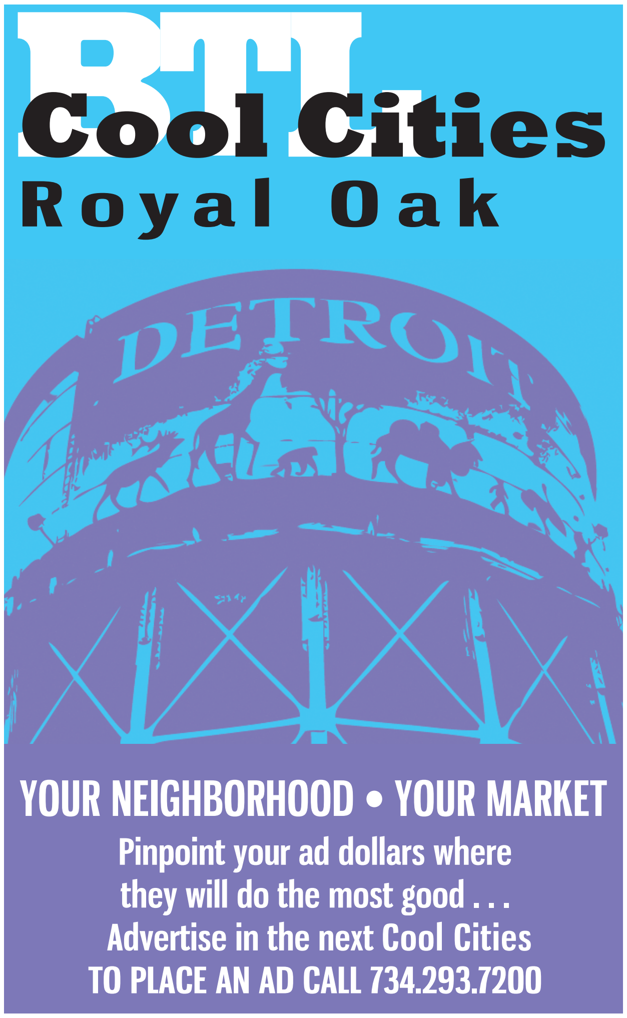
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► Happenings

Continued from p. 36

The Magic Bag “Girls, Girls, Girls” All-Girl Motley Crue tribute. Tickets: $12+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. March 14. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag “Glen Matlock & Sylvain Sylvain” From The Sex Pistols & The New York Dolls. Tickets: $15+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. March 16. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag “Reverend Peyton’s Big Damn Band” With Dom Flemons & Dexter Romweber Duo. Tickets: $18+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 1 a.m. March 15. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

The Magic Bag “Gaelic Storm” Tickets: $20. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. March 19. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

University Musical Society (UMS) “Alfredo Rodriguez Trio & Pedrito Martinez Group” Tickets: $20-46. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 14. 734-668-8397. Ums.org

Dance

Flawless and Fabulous Productions “Ball Room Dancing Classes” This is a six weeks series ballroom class. 25916 Five Mile Road, 25916 Five Mile Road, Redford. March 2 - March 30. 313-212-9219.

Saugatuck Center for the Arts “An Intriguing Conversation: Grand Rapids Ballet” Free. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 7 p.m. March 13. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts “Michigan Five Choreographer Showcase” Tickets: $22-27. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 8 p.m. March 15. 248-661-1900. Theberman.org

Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers “Midwest Regional Alternative Dance Festival” The fifth annual RAD Fest is an exhilarating weekend of performances, workshops, and activities featuring some of the country’s leading and innovative voices in modern, post-modern, and contemporary dance. Tickets: $10-40. Epic Center, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo. March 14 - March 16. 269-342-4354. Midwestradfest.org

Shows

822 Gallery “Poetry Reading Series” Call gallery for exact times. 822 Gallery, 822 W. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Feb. 14 - July 11. 248-202-6073. Sooaklandart.com

Cabaret 313 “Norm Lewis” Tony Award nominee Norm Lewis in his Detroit debut. Tickets: $50-125. Marlene Boll Theatre at the Downtown YMCA, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. March 14 - March 14. 313-405-5061. Cabaret313.org

MOCAD “The Sound of My Voice” Free. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 5 p.m. March 15. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

MOCAD “True East” Free. Museum

See Happenings, page 43

Editor’s Pick

Have a special skill to show off? Head to Stiletto’s Nightclub & Showbar in Inkster this Friday for their talent show. Billed as “A Provocative Night of Lesbian Diversions,” the club will be filled with varying entertainment.

Stiletto’s is one of Michigan’s most well known LGBT entertainment complexes, featuring two clubs under one roof. For almost twenty years, the complex has been serving nightly shows and lesbian-oriented dancing.

Stiletto’s Talent Show starts at 10 p.m. on Friday, March 14, but arrive early for the “talent search.” The club is located at 1641 Middlebelt Road, Inkster. For more information, visit www.stilettosnightclub.com.

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► Molly Ringwald

Continued from p. 35

way, this is all me saying this. I don’t know or think that Jon was even aware of any of this. Like, I think he didn’t totally understand. Now, if he was here to talk about it, he would probably disagree with me, but anyway ... in the original script I was supposed to end up with Duckie but we so didn’t have that relationship. The movie would’ve been a little bit different with other people who were up for the same part. Robert Downey Jr. was up for that part and we *did* have that kind of chemistry, so I don’t know.

From what I gather, you don’t really like talking about the ’80s anymore.

Yeah, well, you know. It’s funny, the one kind of music that I really don’t listen to hardly ever except for a few selective people is ’80s music. And it’s so big right now! And people love it so much. But I don’t know. If I listen to music, I’m usually listening to jazz or, if I go back, maybe ’90s sometimes, but ’80s? Not!

Because you’re over that era?

Maybe! Yeah, maybe. I don’t know. I mean, there are things that I like, there are certain fashion things I love about the ’80s, but I don’t know – maybe it’s just the saturation. I’ve heard it so much! It’s like Motown – I could stand to never hear a Motown song again. You can put it in a vault for 200 years and then bring it out again and that would be OK. I mean, how many times do you really need to hear “Where Did Our Love Go”?

> *“The movie would’ve been a little bit different with other people who were up for the same part. Robert Downey Jr. was up for that part and we* did *have that kind of chemistry, so I don’t know.”*

Before we part, I’d like to congratulate you on surviving child-stardom.

Oh, thank you!

No meltdown, no crotch shots. How did you manage?!

Yeah, I know, I know. My 10-year-old daughter is, of course, really interested and intrigued by acting and celebrity and all of that stuff, and I’m of course trying to protect her from that. “You can do it when you’re older,” and she’s like, “But whyyy?! You did it! You’re OK!” and I’m like, “I’m an anomaly.”

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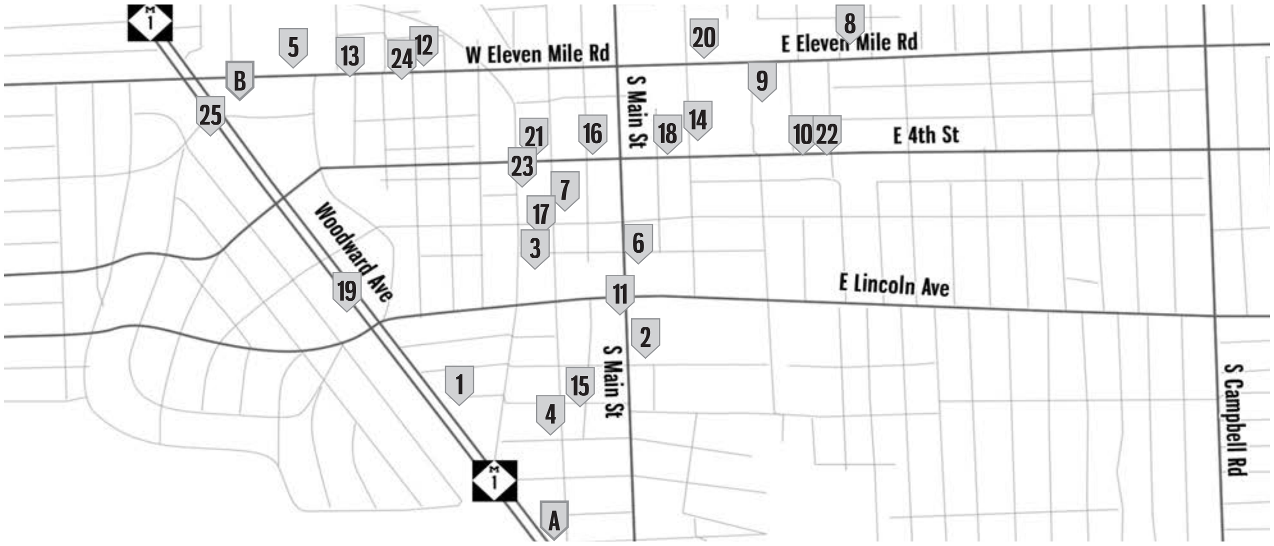

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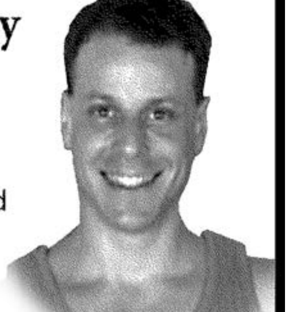

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Classifieds

01-ANNOUNCEMNTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. Closed/Discussion.

Bloomfield Hills-Sunday / Tuesday / Thursday

8:00 pm, North Woodward Equality, Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, lower level classroom - enter first walkway off Woodward entrance. Big Book/12 & 12 Meeting.

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

8:00 pm, Downtown Gay AA, Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 West Fort St. Closed/Discussion (Open 1st Friday of every month).

Farmington Hills-Monday

8:00 pm, Suburban West Gay AA, Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halstead (Between 10 & 11 Mile Roads) Closed / Discussion.

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

11:30 a.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

Ferndale-Saturday

1 p.m. Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

8 p.m. Go After Your Sobriety Gay AA, Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest. Closed/ Discussion.

Livonia-Friday

8 p.m., West Side Story's Gay AA, Providence Medical Center, 7 Mile & Newburgh. Closed/Discussion.

Warren-Monday

7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay AA, Odd Fellow's Hall, 830 S Monroe St Closed/Discussion.

101-ANNOUNCEMNTS LGBT AL ANON

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Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group

Saturday's 8pm

Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church (in basement)

Pinecrest & Drayton, Ferndale

Closed Meeting

112 ANNOUNCEMENTS - VOLUNTEERING

Ferndale Pride 2014 Volunteers

We appreciate our helpful volunteers and would like you to be involved. Choose dates and times that work for you. Please ask your friends and family that would like to volunteer to sign up as well. Interested? Fill out our online registration form: http://www.ferndalepride.com/volunteering/how-to-volunteer.html

Sponsorship and vending opportunities available.

Participate in the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo

Looking for individuals to help out and have fun at the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo April 12 at the Soutfield Civic Pavilion. Please contact Bill at 248-809-9644 or bill@thequintessentialevent.com

428 PROF. SERVICES - MASSAGE

GROUP MASSAGE

- For Gay and Bisexual Men. Learn some massage techniques and meet others in a safe and caring environment. Tuesdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Thursdays at 2 p.m. $10 per session. 209 West Kingsley in downtown Ann Arbor. (734) 662-6282 or email Massage4@aol.com. http://www.trymassage.com

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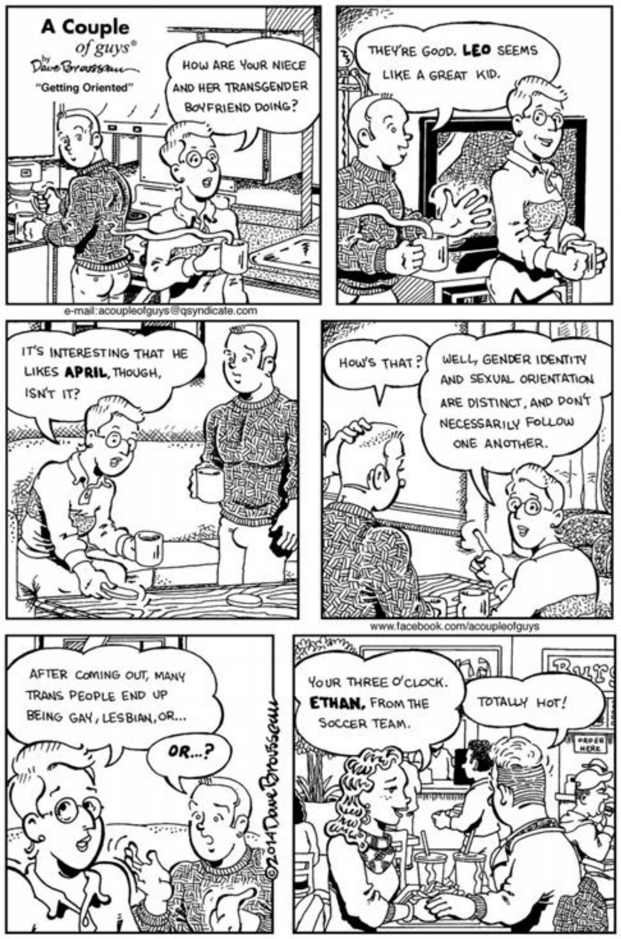
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga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OR...?
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Solution to puzzle from page 44

T	O	P	H	A	T				T	R	A	U	M	A
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Editor's Pick

Ferndale's Affirmations will be offering biweekly support for anyone interested in gender hormone counseling sessions. The sessions, lead by Darnell Jones, RPH and GNA, are conducted one-on-one.

Affirmations is metro Detroit's leading LGBTQ resource center. The Ferndale landmark offers a variety of other services and support programs for the LGBTQ community and allies, including weekly support groups and monthly meetings for various topics.

The next gender hormone counseling sessions start at 6 p.m. every other Thursday at Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. The next sessions will be March 13 and 27. Call 248-398-7105 or visit www.goaffirmations.org for further details.

► Happenings

Continued from p. 38

of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 6 p.m. March 14. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Royal Oak Music Theatre "The Sing-Off Live Tour". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. March 19. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

A Shot In The Dark $8-14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. March 13 - 23. 517-482-5700. www.Riverwalk.com

Butterflies are Free $10-33. Starlight Dinner Theatre at Waverly East Cafetorium, 3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Through March 15. 517-243-6040. www.starlightdinnertheatre.com

Good People $18-24. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Parish Theatre, 426 South Park Street, Kalamazoo. Through March 15. 269-343-1313. www.kazoocivic.com

Reckless $11-22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. March 13 - 16. 734-971-2228. www.A2ct.org

The Awesome 80s Prom $30-50. The Downriver Actors Guild at Biddle Hall, 3239 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte. March 14 - 22. www.Downriveractorsguild.net

The Cat in the Hat $7. The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. March 14 - 21. 269-343-1313. www.Kazoocivic.com

College/University Theater

Dylan $5-10. Lansing Community College Performing Arts at LCC Black Box Theatre, Room 168, Gannon Building, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. March 14 - 22. 517-483-1488. www.lcc.edu/showinfo

Professional

Angels in America Part 1: Millennium Approaches $10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through March 17. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Antony and Cleopatra $10. Shakespeare in Detroit at Recycle Here, New Center, 1331 Holden St., Detroit. March 15 - March 22. www.Shakespeareindetroit.com

Birdhouse Factor $25-52. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7:30 p.m. March 21. 810-237-8689. www.thewhiting.com

Brundibar $15-30. Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus at Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 2:30 p.m. March 16. 313-237-SING. www.michiganopera.org

Cirque de Light Savings $7-10. Crawlspace Theatre Productions at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. March 21 - 22. 269-343-2727. www.Farmersalleytheatre.com

Collected Stories $15-20. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Through March 16. 313-967-0999. www.matrixtheatre.org

ComedySportz Michigan Actors Studio, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 877-636-3320. www.comedysportzdetroit.com

Coming to America $10-15. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium in the Morris Lawrence Building on the campus of Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. March 13 - 15. 734-995-0530. www.wildswantheater.org

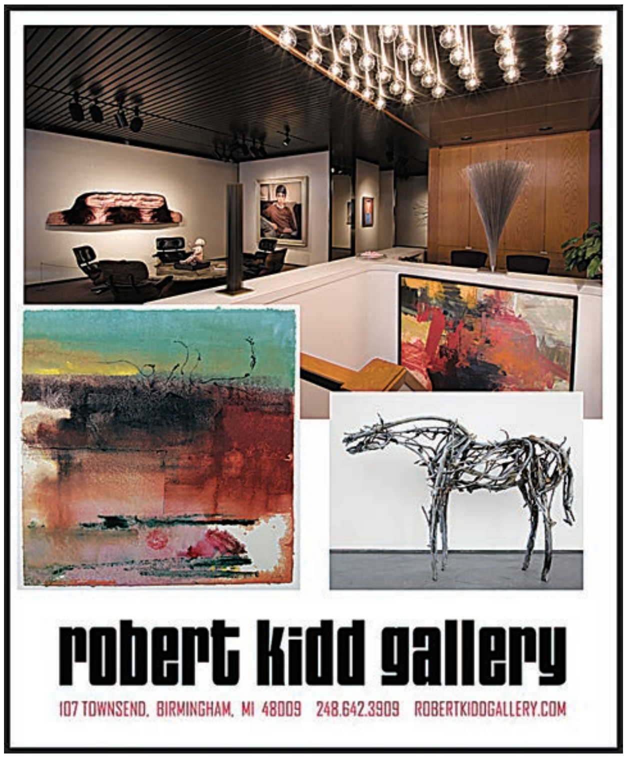
Dinosaur Zoo Live $19-39. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. March 12 - 16. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

Dreamtigers $5-10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. March 15 - 30. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune $15-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. March 20 - April 19. www.williamstontheatre.org

See Happenings, page 45

BTL Cool Cities Birmingham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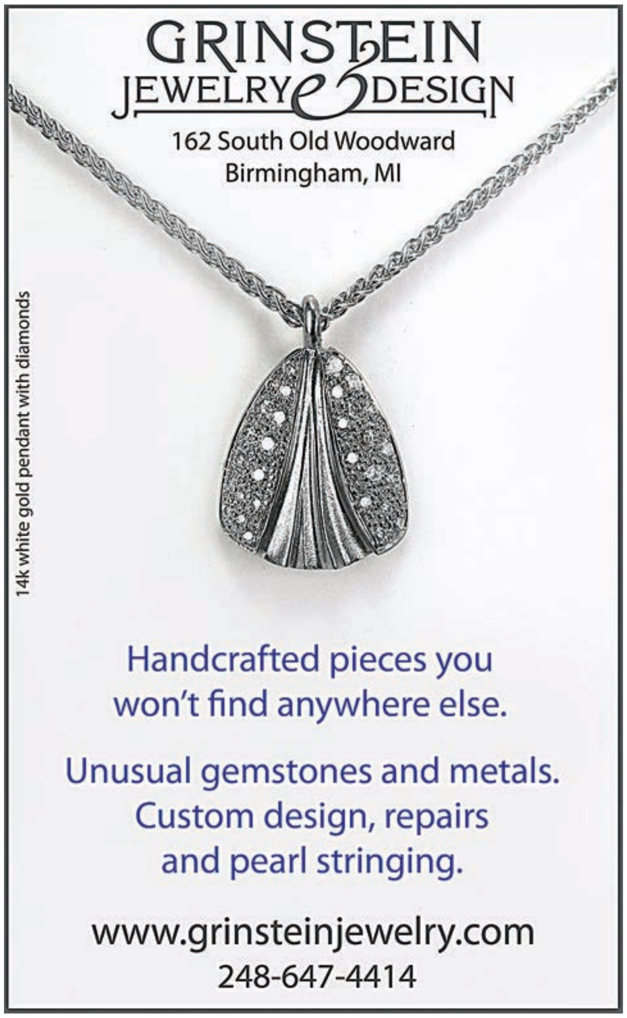
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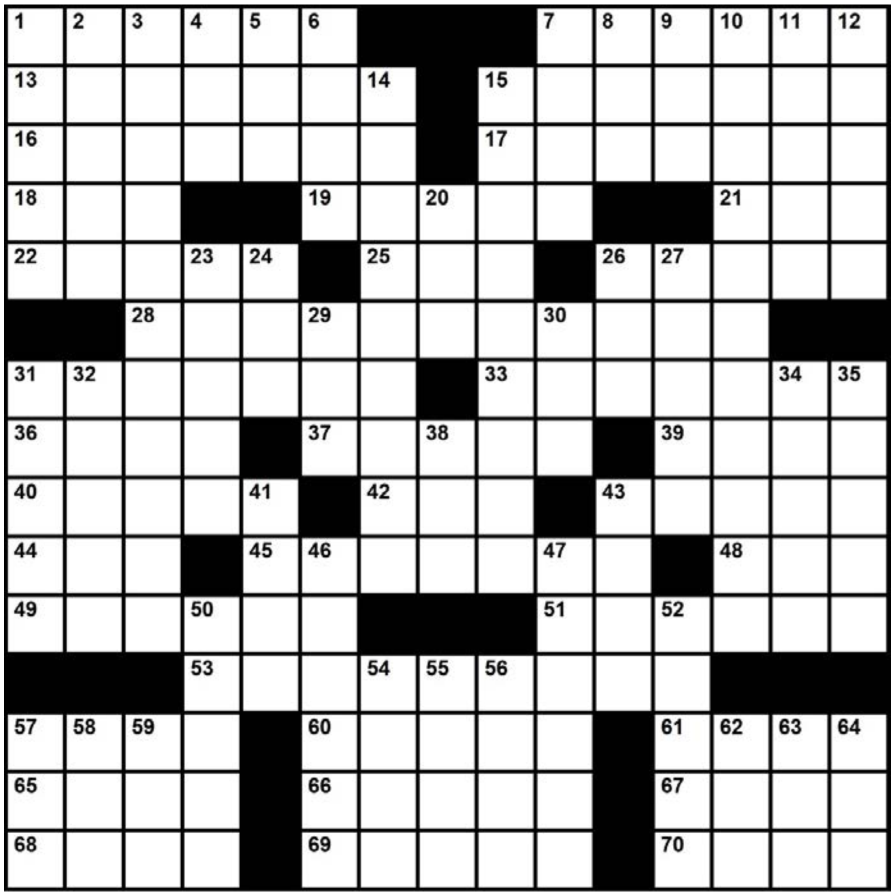
Putin Hugs A Gay Skater



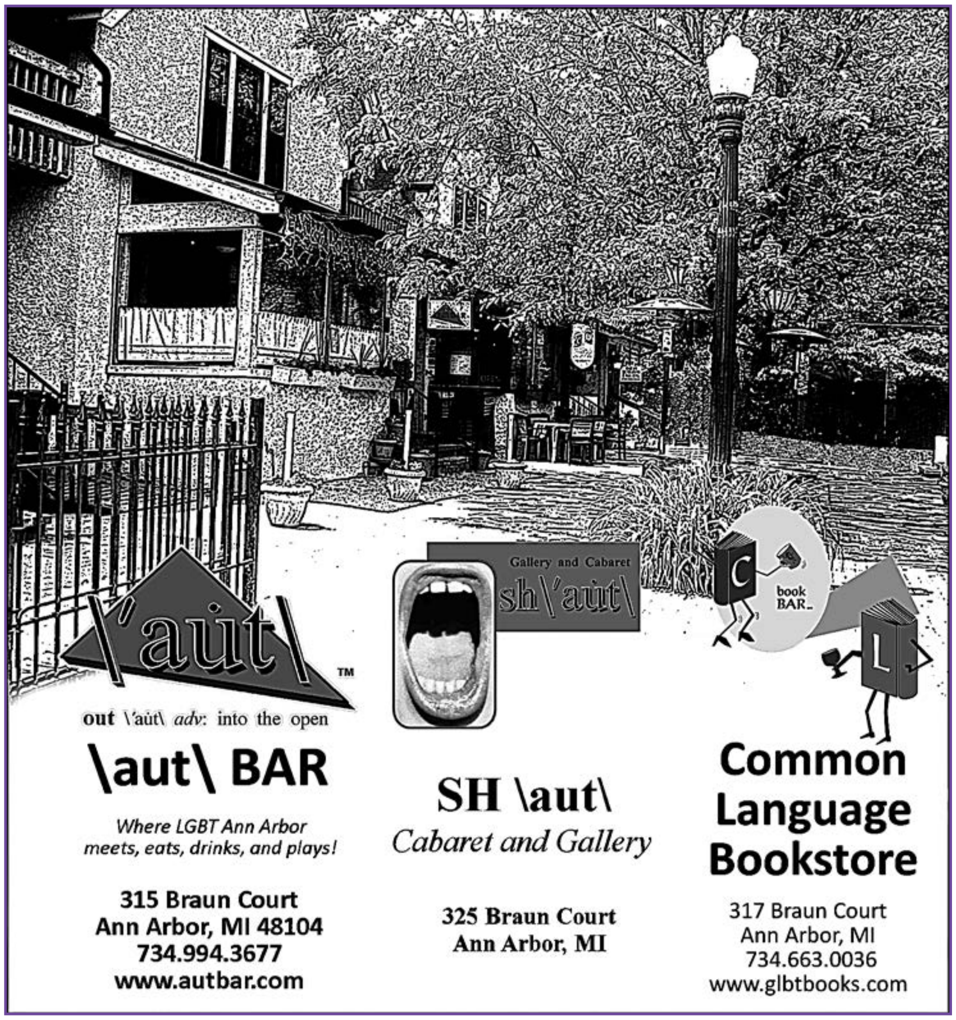
Across

1 Lincoln's head covering
7 Condition after getting cold-cocked
13 Shirley's "Terms of Endearment" role, and others
15 Limerick's river
16 Jon of "The Daily Show"
17 Start of Jon's comment on Putin hugging skater Ireen Wust
18 Dan Savage memoir, with "The"
19 Big bang cause, briefly
21 One of Sappho's pair
22 River of Gay Paree
25 "Love Story" composer
26 Says a "Hail Mary," e.g.
28 More of the comment
31 Gutsy Greek
33 Prayer of Harvey Fierstein's faith
36 Alpo alternative
37 More of the comment
39 Sondheim's "___ the Woods"
40 Press the flesh with
42 Frat letter, briefly
43 It can cut leaves of grass
44 Barnyard layer
45 Journalist Tim
48 "___ Miz"
49 Attacks
51 What King Edward II used to sock it to Piers Gaveston?
53 End of the comment
57 Ill will
60 Dorian Gray creator Wilde
61 Roddy McDowall's "Planet of the ___"
65 Bard's river
66 Andean pack animal
67 Tide type
68 Put out
69 Tether
70 Reid of "Josie and the Pussycats"

Down

1 Blow job and other jobs
2 Mauve hanky delight
3 Fix
4 "In what way?"
5 Constellation over Sydney or Rio
6 Mountain pool
7 Logical start for Rev. Jane Spahr?
8 Like hard-core porn
9 Latina writer Castillo
10 Without mercy
11 Bacon said it's "a good servant and a bad master"
12 Starts the pot
14 Calm
15 Winter problem for guys
20 Figure skater Babilonia
23 Tend with tenderness
24 Summer D.C. setting
26 Third degree, often
27 Took advantage of a decorator?
29 Morse's long one
30 Fluid acquired by pumping
31 Love-making sounds
32 1929 Cole Porter tune
34 "___ Magnolias"
35 Mount
38 Ill. neighbor
41 Long pants, for short
43 "To be" to Henri
46 Spread open
47 Gung-ho
50 Rita Mae Brown's "Cat on the ___"
52 Randolph Scott's companion Cary
54 Lesbos, for one
55 Final Four letters
56 Groups of Moby Dick's species
57 "Heather ___ Two Mommies"
58 Liberty, in "QAF"
59 Big load
62 Shooter "bullet"
63 Organ pleasured by Bernstein
64 Site for three men in a tub

Solution on pg. 42



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► Happenings

Continued from p. 43

Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde $12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through March 22. 313-577-2972. www.hilberry.com

Heartbeat of Home $35-85. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. March 18 - 23. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

Improv Mondays $5 at the door. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Million Dollar Quartet $35-58. Miller Auditorium, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. March 18 - 19. 269-387-2300. www.millerauditorium.com

My Occasion of Sin $17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through March 16. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

Oh, Ananse $5-$10. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through March 23. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Pinkalicious! the Musical $10-15. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. March 14 - 23. 269-343-2727. www.Farmersalleytheatre.com

Puppet Up! - Uncensored For adults only. $35. Miller Auditorium, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. March 15. 269-387-2300. www.Millerauditorium.com

Redwood Curtain $18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through March 15. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

Spank! Harder $30.50-35.50. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 11 - 16. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Staged Reading Festival By donation. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. March 21 - 23. 313-454-1542. www.magentagiraffe.org

Stomp $25-65. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 14 - 16. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Sundays at Go Comedy! Pay-what-you-can at the door. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

t&a $7-10. Crawlspace Theatre Productions at Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. March 14 - 15. 269-343-2727. www.Farmersalleytheatre.com

Tao: Phoenix Rising $15-38. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. March 15. 586-286-2222. www.macombcenter.com

Tao: Phoenix Rising $15-35. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 3 p.m. March 16. 800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com

The Current $15-18. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. March 21 - April 13. 248-850-9919. www.twomusestheatre.org

The Fantasticks $20-35. Miller Auditorium, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. March 14. 269-387-2300. www.Millerauditorium.com

The Foreigner $20. The Snug Theatre, 160 S. Water St., Marine City. March 20 - April 5. 810-278-1749. www.thesnugtheatre.com

The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess $25-32+. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. March 18 - 23. 800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com

The Sunshine Boys $15-18. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through March 22. 586-771-6333. www.broadwayonstage.com

The Tempest $10. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. March 14 - 22. 269-282-1953. www.whatado.org

Venus in Fur $22-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through April 6. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.org

Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me! $33-123. Miller Auditorium, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. 7:30 p.m. March 20. 269-387-2300. www.millerauditorium.com

Yes Weed Can $10-20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through March 29. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "The Islands of Benoit Mandelbrot: Fractals, Chaos, and the Materiality of Thinking" One of the most notable mathematicians of the twentieth century, this exhibition explores the role of images in scientific thinking. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 16 - March 30. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "Waylande Gregory: Art Deco Ceramics and the Atomic Impulse" Waylande Gregory (1905-1971) redefined American ceramics in the 1930s and 1940s, creating monumental ceramic sculptures and helping to shape Art Deco design in the United States. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 16 - March 23. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market (DAM) "Annual Scholarship Awards & Exhibition". Cranbrook Academy of Art, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Feb. 28 - April 5. 877-462-7262. Detroitartistsmarket.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Let Me Show You What I Saw: American Views on City and Country, 1912-1963" Whether they were captivated by quiet fields or looming buildings, artists' visions were becoming increasingly personal and abstract, going beyond the merely visible to suggest a world filled with feeling and meaning. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 1 - June 29. 313-833-7900. ww. Dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Foto Europa, 1850 to the Present" Europe was the birthplace of photography in 1839 and has remained a center for progressive ideas about and experimentation with the medium ever since. The more than seventy photographs in this exhibition highlight the contributions of major European artists and photographers from across the continent. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 25 - April 27. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Adult Oil & Acrylics Class" Tickets: $10. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Jan. 7 - June 24. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Adult Pastels Class" Tickets: $20. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Jan. 4 - June 28. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Open Studio" DCA members are invited to drop in every Thursday afternoon to paint and socialize with their fellow member artists. Admission: Members - Free. Non-Members - $10. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Aug. 8 - June 27. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Point of View: Contemporary African American Art from the Elliot & Kimberly Perry Collection" Art from former NBA player and his wife. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 26 - April 13. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Janice Charach Gallery "Breaking the Mold Glass and Clay Exhibit Sale Janice Charach Gallery" Opening Reception on Sunday, March 16th from 1-4 p.m. Refreshments will be served. This exhibit celebrates 25 cutting edge local artists. Janice Charach Gallery, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. March 16 - April 17. 248-432-5579. Charachgallery.org

Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum "The President's Photographer: Fifty Years Inside the Oval Office" The exhibition features 50 framed images and a text panel with brief biographical information on each photographer. Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, 7400 Bay Road, University Center. Feb. 3 - May 24. 989-964-7125. Marshallfredericks.org/presidents

MOCAD "Sandpainting and Mandala Making" Family day. Free. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 12 p.m. March 16. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

MOCAD "James Lee Byars: I Cancel All My Works at Death". Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 7 - May 4. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

MOCAD "Mobile Homestead" A permanent art work by the late Mike Kelley. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1 - June 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Balancing Point" This unique collaborative exhibition showcases a bold transdisciplinary display of work from some of the Kendall College of Art + Design's finest student and alumni artists. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Feb. 7 - April 6. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "John Peterson" Complex pen & ink drawings. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Jan. 1 - March 22. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

The Scarab Club "Bill Rauhauser: The Three Iron Rules of Street Photography". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. Feb. 19 - March 29. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

UMMA "Three Michigan Architects: Part 1 - David Osler". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 7 - March 31. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

WonderFool Productions "Luminary Workshops" Make your own luminary and join a processional into downtown Ann Arbor. Don't know how? Come to one our popular drop-in Make your Own Luminary Workshops and get hands on help from several of the region's most talented public art artists. Suggested donation: $10. Workatile, 118 S. Main St., Ann Abor. March 2 - March 30. 734-763-7550. Wonderfoolproductions.org

Yellow Door Art Market "Art Fair Fever at Yellow Door Art Market" Since there are still a couple of months before local art fairs start up, we decided to get a jump start on the fun!. Yellow Door Art Market, 3141 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. 10 a.m. March 15. 248-336-2038.

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APRIL 12, 2014 | 12 P.M.
SOUTHFIELD CIVIC PAVILION

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